# SECTION 5. CHESAPEAKE BAY MONITORING AND MODELING FRAMEWORKS

For purposes of developing the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, data and scenario results from extensive monitoring networks and a series of linked environmental models simulating the nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollutant load sources and the associated water quality and biological responses have been applied to support decision making by EPA and its partner Bay watershed jurisdictions. The suite of models were developed, calibrated, and verified using long-term Bay, watershed, airshed, and land-cover monitoring network observations and published technical and scientific findings.

The suite of Bay and watershed monitoring networks and the Bay modeling framework provide the most accurate and reliable representations of the complex Bay water quality processes currently available. Quality assured monitoring data collected over multiple decades from hundreds of stations provides the most direct measures of Bay and watershed water quality conditions and biological responses. The linked Bay models are valuable tools in synthesizing an enormous amount of data and scientific findings, projecting possible outcomes to a range of management actions, and assessing pollutant load reductions needed to restore Bay water quality. Although models have some inherent uncertainty, the amount of data and resources taken to develop, calibrate, and verify the accuracy of each of the Bay models, minimized the uncertainly of the suite of Bay models.

## 5.1 TECHNICAL MONITORING AND MODELING REQUIREMENTS

The combined Chesapeake Bay monitoring networks and modeling frameworks effectively address all the factors necessary for developing a scientifically sound and reliable TMDL that meets the TMDL regulatory requirements. The factors addressed in and through the various monitoring networks and linked models include the following:

- Regulated point sources and non-regulated nonpoint sources of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment are fully considered and evaluated separately in terms of their relative contributions to water quality impairment of the Chesapeake Bay's tidal waters.
- Water quality impairments in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries and embayments are temporally and spatially variable and are directly linked to nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollutant loadings.
- Time-variable aspects of land-based best management practices that have a large effect on nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loadings and resulting water quality in the Bay are fully simulated.
- All sources of data are gathered using documented methodologies fully consistent across the Bay watershed and the Bay's tidal shorelines and waters helping to ensure equitable allocation of the resultant load reduction responsibility across the seven watershed jurisdictions and multiple pollutant source sectors.
- The Bay modeling framework takes advantage of decades of atmospheric deposition, streamflow, precipitation, water quality, biological resource, and land cover monitoring

data generated through the Bay-wide tidal and basinwide watershed monitoring networks as well as tracking and reporting of the implementation of pollution load reduction best management practices, conservation practices, and technologies for model calibration and verification.

- A wide variety of hydrological conditions, across the decadal-scale model hydrologic periods, have been characterized through decades of Bay watershed and tidal water monitoring to provide reliable simulations in support of management decisions.
- The combined monitoring networks and linked Bay models provide the ability to simulate and assess the critical spatial and temporal variability of the Bay water quality criteria parameters—dissolved oxygen, water clarity, underwater Bay grass acreage, and chlorophyll *a*—as adopted into the four Bay jurisdictions' WQS regulations.

The primary regulatory factor that must be addressed by the combined monitoring networks and linked models is whether the Bay TMDL allocation scenario will attain and maintain the applicable jurisdictions' WQS. To make that assessment, the Bay models must be able to relate the nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollutant loadings from all sources and across all tidal waters to achievement of the four Bay jurisdictions' Chesapeake Bay WQS. A determination that a particular scenario achieves compliance with the applicable water quality criteria within each segment for each of the jurisdictions' WQS requires evaluating the water quality impacts of pollutant loadings on multiple parameters across all seasons over a minimum of 3 years within a 10-year hydrologic period (USEPA 2003a, 2007a). As a result, the full suite of Bay models must provide a time-variable analysis. In addition, to support a determination of reasonable assurance, the Bay modeling framework must also be useful in developing and evaluating action plans for implementation, and confirming those combined implementation actions will yield achievement of Chesapeake Bay WQS (USEPA 2008b, 2009c, 2009d).

## 5.2 BAY MONITORING FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

In August 1984, the Chesapeake Bay tidal monitoring program was created to achieve three objectives: characterize the baseline water quality conditions; detect trends in water quality indicators; and increase the understanding of ecosystem process and factors affecting Bay water quality and living resources (MD OEP 1987). The long-term Chesapeake Bay and watershed monitoring networks have accomplished many more objectives in the past 26 years, including the following:

- Classifying status and tracking trends in tidal Bay and Bay watershed water quality and living resources response to management actions and other anthropogenic and natural factors
- Supporting a scientific basis for targeting a dual nitrogen/phosphorus load reduction strategy for Bay water quality and habitat health recovery
- Identifying eutrophication as the primary cause of the SAV decline
- Providing sufficient and diverse data supporting scientifically based and peer-reviewed estuarine water quality criteria development to guide restoration targeting and water quality assessments (e.g., CWA section 303(d) listing/delisting decisions)

- Supporting geographic and pollutant source specific targeted implementation for the most cost effective, reduction efficient management actions
- Supporting decision makers' needs for the Bay TMDL process with high-quality data underlying the Chesapeake Bay watershed and tidal water quality, sediment transport, biological resource, and filter feeder models' development, calibration, verification and management application

### 5.2.1 Partnership's Chesapeake Bay Tidal Monitoring Network

Undergoing adaptive changes over the almost three decades as the partnership's management needs and requests have significantly evolved over time (CBP 1989a, 1989b; USEPA 2003a; MRAT 2009), the Chesapeake Bay tidal monitoring network includes the following:

- Tidal water quality monitoring for 26 parameters at over 150 stations distributed over the 92 Chesapeake Bay tidal segments across Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia
- Shallow-water monitoring addressing a select set of segments on a rotational basis
- Benthic infaunal community monitoring at fixed and random stations across the tidal waters
- Annual aerial and ground surveys of underwater Bay grasses
- Decadal records of phytoplankton and zooplankton monitoring
- Fisheries independent population monitoring programs and surveys

Each component of the tidal monitoring network has been designed to support the four Bay jurisdictions' tidal water Bay section 303(d) listing decision makings, addressing DO, water clarity, SAV, and chlorophyll *a* criteria attainment assessments and benthic infaunal community-based impairment decisions (USEPA 2003a, 2004a, 2007a, 2007b, 2008a, 2010a).

The Bay tidal monitoring network is funded, operated, and maintained through a longstanding state-federal-university partnership that produced the fundamental monitoring data supporting Bay TMDL development. This data is also utilized in public reporting on the health of the Bay, its tidal rivers, and supporting ecosystem; assessment of achieving the Bay jurisdictions' Chesapeake Bay WQS regulations; evaluation of the effectiveness of actions to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution loadings from the surrounding watershed; developing, calibrating, verifying and applying models; and generating and reporting water quality and living resource indicators.

#### Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Monitoring

The long-term Chesapeake Bay water quality monitoring program uses a fixed station strategy with sites distributed along the mid-channel waters of the Bay, its tidal tributaries and embayments. The exact number of stations has varied over the 26-year history of the program. A set of 162 stations that have been sampled consistently for the majority of those years is illustrated in Figure 5-1. One or more stations are in each of the 92 Bay segments. Over the 26-year history of the program, sampling frequency has ranged from 20 times per year to the present 14 cruises annually. Synoptic sampling of all the tidal waters takes 1–2 weeks with the available funding, field staff, and sampling vessel resources.

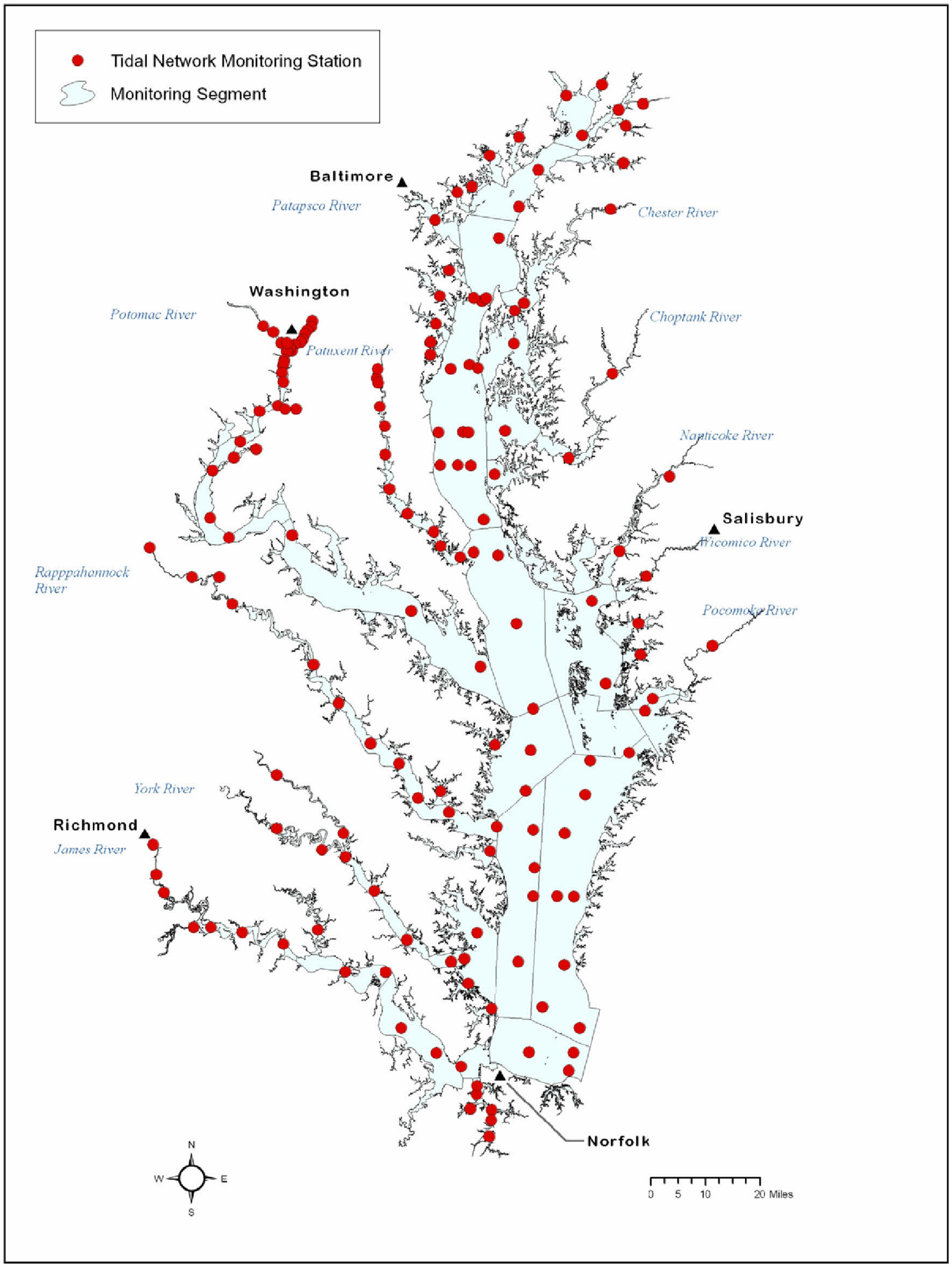



**Figure 5-1. Tidal Chesapeake Bay water quality monitoring network stations.**

The tidal water quality monitoring program is designed to represent the complexities of the estuary. Every 2–4 weeks, a three-dimensional view is obtained by sampling various depths from the surface to the bottom of the water column at each station, with each of the 92 Bay segments having one or more sampling sites. Sites are sampled at least once each month. Standardized sampling and analytical methods are used to detect low levels of nutrients, chlorophyll *a* and particulates; these methods were approved by EPA in 1986 and are still used today (USEPA 1996).

At each station, vertical profiles of in-situ water quality measurements are made using instrumentation and standard operating procedures approved by the Chesapeake Bay Program's Analytical Methods and Quality Assurance Workgroup (see Section 5.2.3). Measurements are collected at 0.5 m, 1.0 m, 2.0 m, and 3.0 m, and at a maximum of 2-meter intervals from 1.0 m below the surface to 1.0 m above the bottom. Water temperature, DO, conductivity, and pH are recorded at each depth. Photosynthetic Active Radiation (PAR) measurements are made, and Secchi depth measurements are recorded using a Secchi disc.

At stations where stratification provides a pycnocline, as determined by the partnership's approached protocol (USEPA 2004a) discrete samples are collected at 0.5 m below the surface, at 1.5 m above the upper pycnocline, at 1.5 m below the lower pycnocline and at 1.0 m above the bottom. At stations with no identifiable pycnocline as determined by the protocol, discrete samples are collected at 0.5 m below the surface and 1.0 m above the bottom, and at the physical profiling depths which are above one-third and two-thirds the distance between the surface- and bottom-sampling depths. Each of the discrete sample depths corresponds to an in-situ water quality measured profiling depth.

### Chesapeake Bay Shallow-Water Monitoring

For shallow-water tidal habitats, monitoring consists of high-speed, spatially detailed water quality mapping (data collected every 4 seconds) called DATAFLOW, and high-frequency (15-minute measurement intervals) continuous monitoring at fixed sites (CONMON) (USEPA 2007a; MD DNR 2009; VIMS 2009). Both DATAFLOW and CONMON record high-resolution measurements of water temperature, DO concentration, DO saturation, pH, salinity (derived from conductivity), turbidity (used to estimate total suspended solids or TSS), and fluorescence (used to estimate chlorophyll *a*).

CONMON measurements are collected March to November. All sondes (i.e. data measurement devices) are either at constant depth of approximately 1 m below the surface or at a fixed depth from the bottom (0.3 m–0.5 m) depending on depth conditions. In addition to the suite of measurements collected by the CONMON meter, LI-COR sensors measure the light penetration at the site on each visit. A Secchi depth measurement is also collected. As a part of standardized operating procedures to ensure data quality, each CONMON site is serviced biweekly unless water quality readings demonstrate that weekly intervals should be maintained. During each site visit, instruments in the water are calibrated against replacement instruments and a third instrument. Discrete water samples are collected for chlorophyll *a*, turbidity, and TSS calibration. Analyses for a suite of nutrient parameters are also conducted on the discrete water sample. Upon swapping out instruments, the instrument removed from the field is returned to the lab for cleaning and lab calibration before being redeployed.

DATAFLOW is conducted on a subset of the 92 Bay segments each year with monthly measurements from April to October. Measurements are made while traveling in a boat at speeds up to 25 knots. The DATAFLOW system is compact, can fit on a small boat, and allows sampling in shallow water every 45 seconds with the ability to map an entire small tidal tributary or embayment in a day or less. This program complements the long-term fixed-station monitoring by providing data in nearshore, shallow-water habitats critical to SAV where water quality behaves differently from those measured in the mid-channel.

DATAFLOW calibration data are collected at multiple sites to either coordinate with long-term or CONMON monitoring stations, and large signal areas to insure coverage of the data gradient with the calibration. Discrete grab water samples are collected for chlorophyll. In addition, measurements of physical parameters (water temperature, DO, conductivity, pH) and Secchi depth are made, and on PAR to calculate water column light attenuation (Kd). There is extensive quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) on the data set upon returning from the field.

To date, 65 of the 92 Chesapeake Bay segments have 1 to 3 years of shallow-water monitoring data available for assessment (Figure 5-2).

### Chesapeake Bay Benthos Monitoring

The current Bay-wide benthic monitoring program, initiated in Maryland in 1984 and in Virginia in 1985, now consists of fixed and random site components (Weisberg et al. 1997; Dauer and Llansó 2003; Llansó et al 2003). The fixed site monitoring program has 53 stations traditionally sampled annually in spring and summer to monitor changes over time (trends). All fixed sites in Maryland and Virginia are sampled using three replicate bottom grabs. The probability-based, random strata sampling was initiated in Maryland in 1994. Since 1996, the probability-based sampling program has become the standardized approach in Virginia as well, providing for a Bay-wide regulatory assessment estimating impaired habitat conditions. The impairment assessment relies on approximately 200 sites sampled between July 15 and September 30 each year (Figure 5-3).

### Chesapeake Bay Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Aerial and Ground Surveys

Consistent annual SAV aerial surveys commenced in 1984 and have been completed every year (except 1988) to the present providing detailed mapping of SAV bed coverage, acreage, estimated density, and, in combination with ground survey, species identification (Orth et al. 2010a; VIMS 2009) (Figure 5-4). In 2001 the program increased efficiency and accuracy by scanning aerial photography from digital negatives and orthorectifying (i.e., geometrically correcting) the images using image processing software. SAV beds are categorized visually according to density on the basis of percent cover estimates. SAV beds are generally photographed May through October—lower Bay SAV in May and June, and low salinity and freshwater areas August through October (Figure 5-5) (Orth et al. 2010a; VIMS 2010).

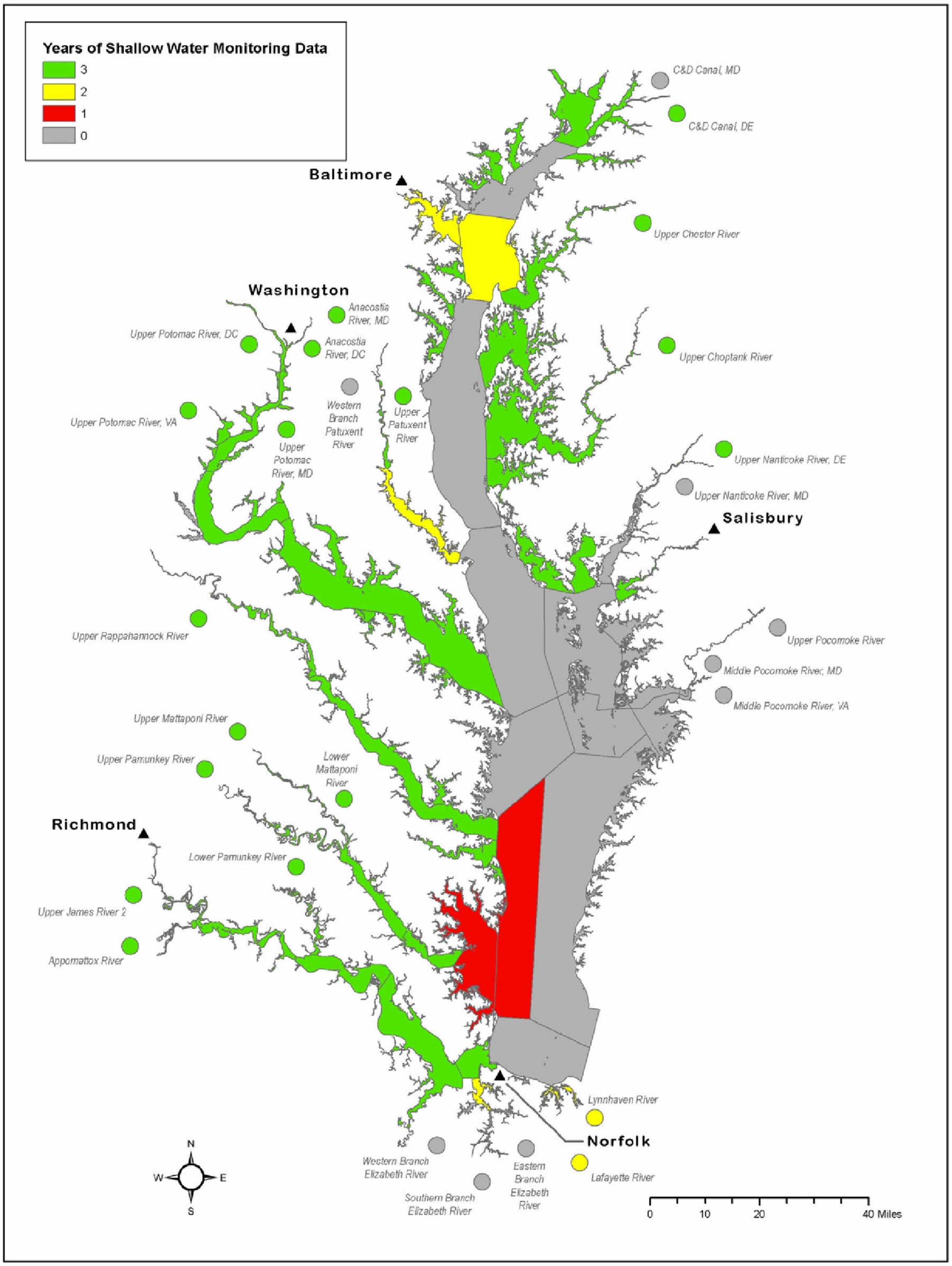
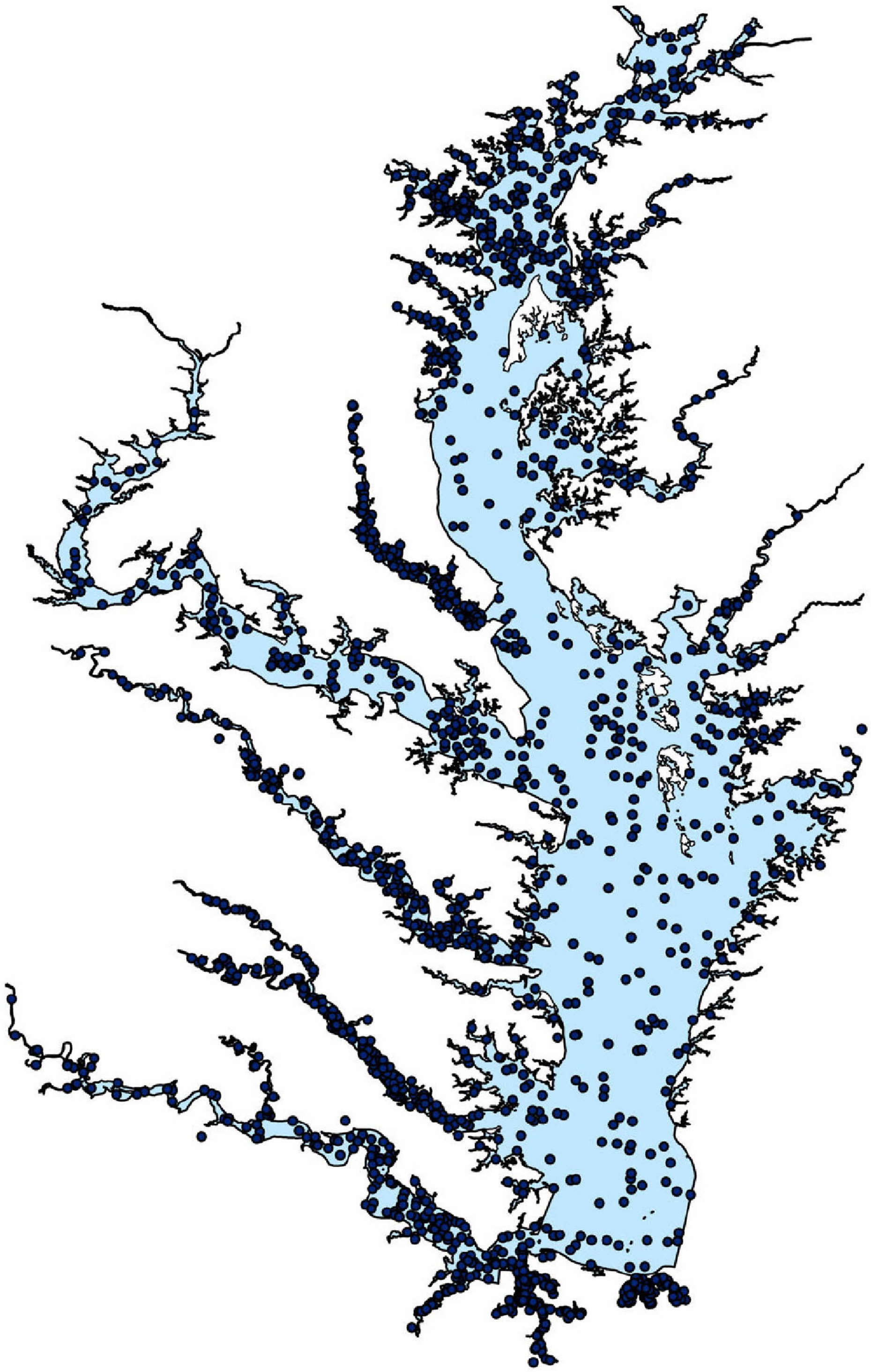
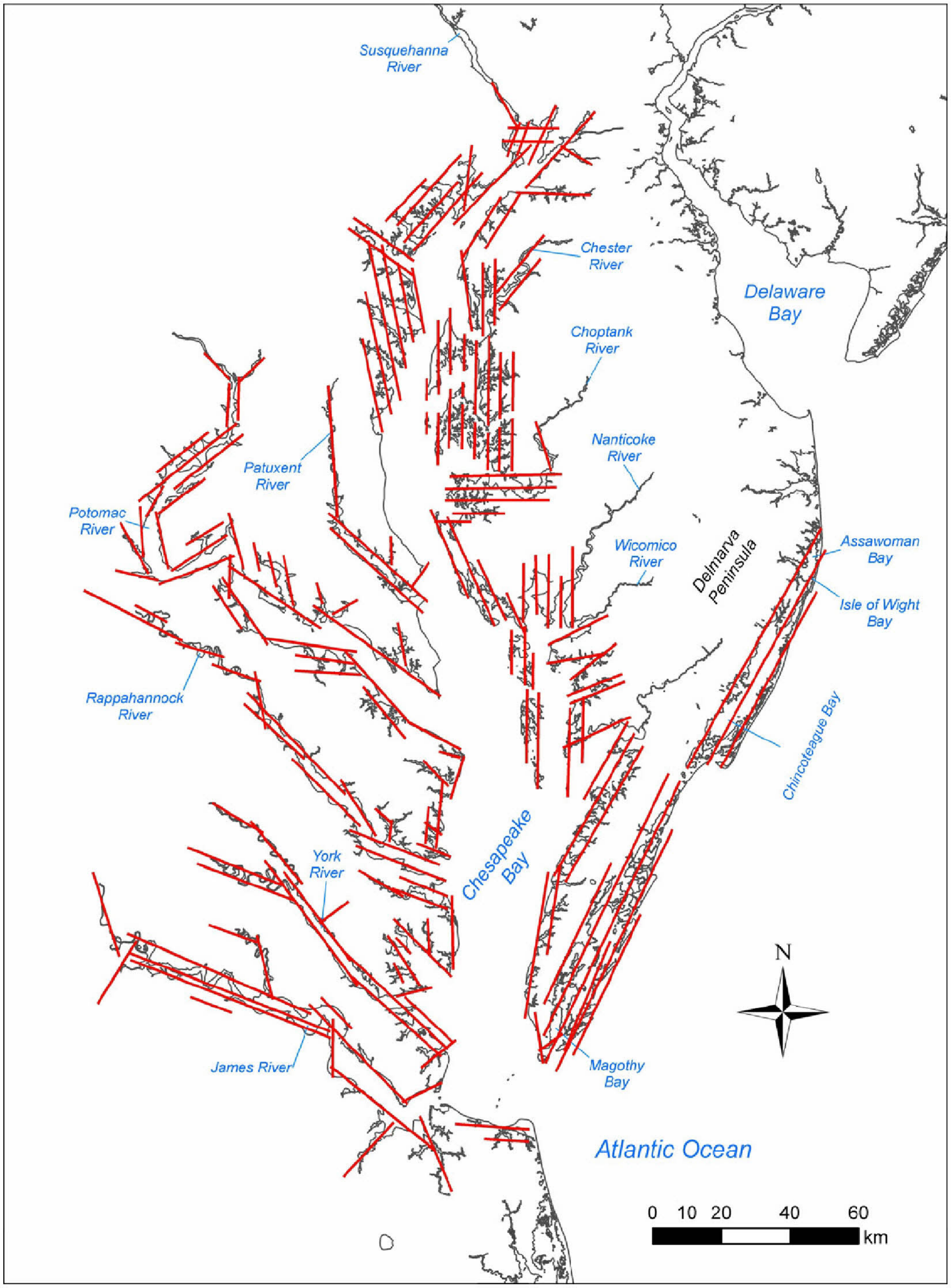



**Figure 5-2. Shallow-water monitoring illustrating segment completion and latest rotation for Maryland.**



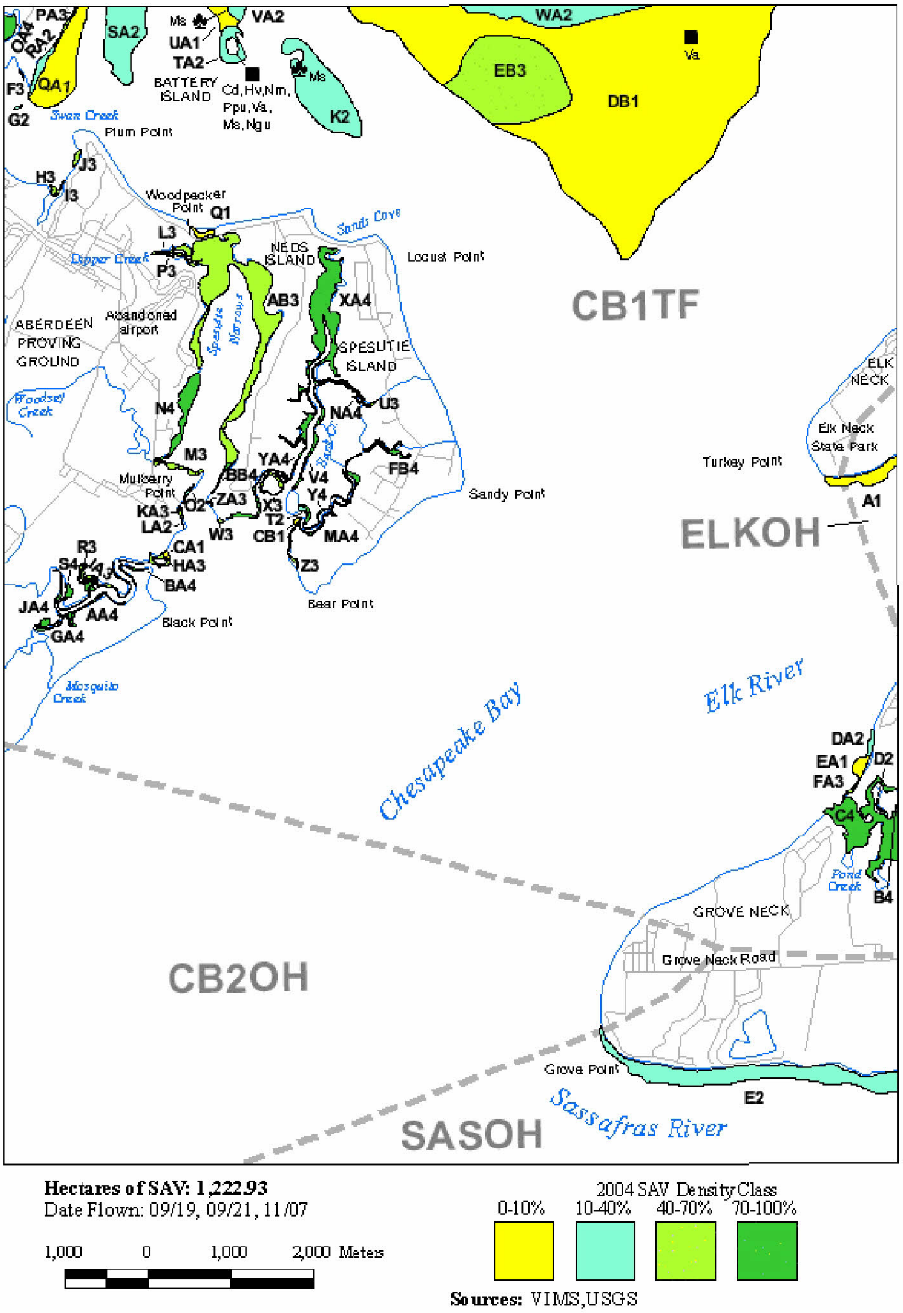
Source: Dauer and Llansó 2003

**Figure 5-3. 2003-2008 Chesapeake Bay stratified random benthic sampling sites used to estimate habitat impairment through benthic community condition assessment.**




Source: http://www.vims.edu/bio/sav

**Figure 5-4. Flightlines for the annual Chesapeake Bay SAV Aerial Survey.**




Source: http://www.vims.edu/bio/sav

**Figure 5-5. Illustration of mapped SAV beds, individual bed coding, bed density estimates, and species identification (from ground surveys).**

## Chesapeake Bay Phytoplankton Monitoring Program

The Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Network has included a Phytoplankton Monitoring Program since its start in 1984. Phytoplankton samples for species enumeration, and water samples for laboratory measurements of phytoplankton primary production are collected at fixed monitoring stations in the mainstem and tidal tributaries of the bay (Marshall et al. 2006; Lacouture 2006).

Monitoring has been performed concurrently with water quality monitoring at as many as 32 stations, however, 27 stations are currently active. Staff from Old Dominion University performed monitoring for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and by staff from Morgan State University Estuarine Research Center (formerly the Academy of Natural Sciences Benedict Estuarine Research Center) for the Maryland Department of the Environment/Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Monitoring data are available at http://www.chesapeakebay.net/. Virginia data after 1999 is also available at http://www.chesapeakebay.odu.edu/.

### Chesapeake Bay Zooplankton Monitoring Program

The Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Network included a Zooplankton Monitoring Program from 1984-2002 (Buchanan 1993; Carpenter et al. 2006). Mesozooplankton and microzooplankton samples for species enumeration were collected at up to 36 fixed monitoring stations in the main stem and tidal tributaries of the bay. Microzooplankton sampling was conducted in Virginia only from 1993-2002 and gelatinous zooplankton occurred only in Maryland. Monitoring usually occurred concurrently with water quality monitoring. Staff from Old Dominion University performed monitoring for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and by staff from Versar, Inc and Morgan State University Estuarine Research Center (formerly the Academy of Natural Sciences Benedict Estuarine Research Center) for the Maryland Department of the Environment/Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Monitoring funding was briefly reinstated to count archive samples in 2005. Monitoring data is available at http://www.chesapeakebay.net/. Virginia data collected between 1999 and 2002 is also available at http://www.chesapeakebay.odu.edu/.

### Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Monitoring Programs

There are a series of federal, state, and Baywide fisheries monitoring programs and surveys briefly described below.

- **Commercial Landings:** The NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service maintains a database of domestic fishery landings of fish and shellfish beginning with data from 1880, with Chesapeake Bay specific commercial landings data by years, states, and species; by years, states, species, and fishing gears. More information and online data can be found at: http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/commercial/.
- **The Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey**: The survey serves as the only Baywide fishery-independent survey of the blue crab population, provides abundance and relative exploitation estimates, as well as recruitment and female spawning potential indices initiated in 1988 by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and University of Maryland Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science joining the following year. Data can be obtained from http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/crab/winter_dredge.html.
- **Maryland Surveys**: The Maryland Department of Natural Resources conducts a series of fisheries surveys including: Potomac River Shad Survey, Maryland American Eel Populations Surveys, Maryland Striped Bass Gill Net Seine Survey, Maryland Upper Bay Trawl Survey, Maryland Shoal Water Trawl Survey, Calvert Cliffs Pot Survey, Maryland Annual Oyster Spat Index and Disease Survey, and the Maryland Oyster Stock Assessment Program. For more information see http://www.dnr.state.md.us/FISHERIES/.

- **Virginia Surveys:** The Virginia Institute of Marine Science conducts a series of fisheries surveys including: Virginia Shad and Herring Gill Net Survey, Virginia American Eel Young of Year Survey, Virginia Striped Bass Monitoring and Tagging Survey, Virginia Shark Long Line Survey, Virginia Striped Bass Young of Year Beach Seine Survey, Virginia Blue Crab Megalopae Monitoring Program, Virginia Juvenile Fish and Blue Crab Trawl Survey, Virginia Spring and Fall Oyster Bar Survey, and the Virginia Oyster Spat Survey. For more information see http://www.vims.edu/research/departments/fisheries/programs/.

### 5.2.2 Partnership's Watershed Monitoring Network

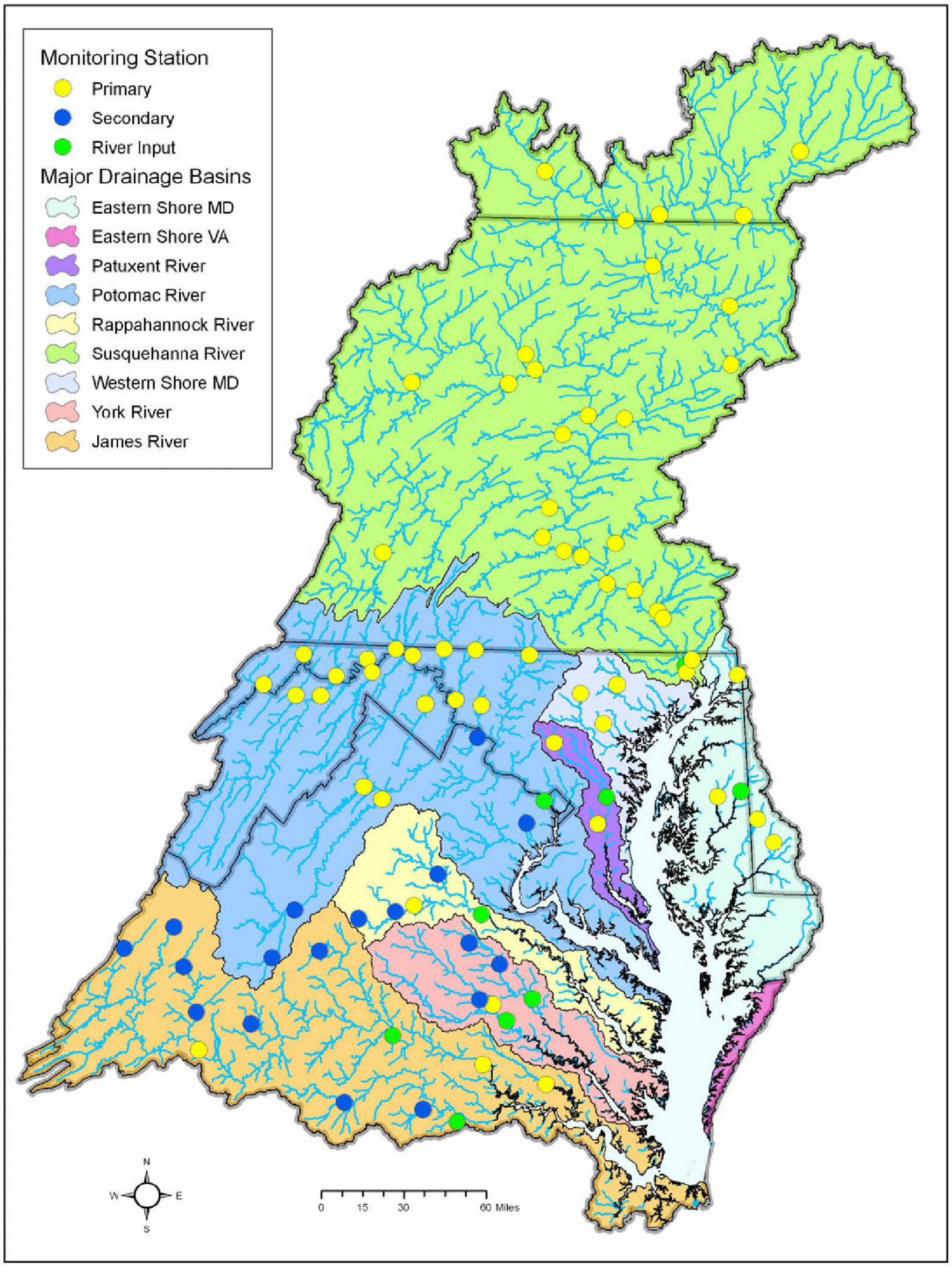
The Chesapeake Bay watershed monitoring network is a network of 85 streamflow gauges and water-quality sampling sites operated across the Bay watershed (CBP 2004a; MRAT 2009) (Figure 5-6). The network is an essential component to reporting, tracking, and modeling stream flow as well as nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment concentrations and loads across the Chesapeake Bay watershed as it provides the only consistent, coordinated monitoring effort across all seven Chesapeake Bay watershed jurisdictions. Data from the watershed monitoring network sites have been used to develop, calibrate, and verify the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model (USEPA 2010j).

The CBP partnership designed the watershed streamflow and water-quality sampling network in 2004 and signed a MOU in September 2004 to implement the network (Chesapeake Bay Watershed Partners 2004). The watershed monitoring network has undergone multiple scientific reviews since its inception (e.g., STAC 2005a, 2005b; MRAT 2009). After a 2009 review of the monitoring network, the original objectives of the network were modified to reflect a balance between the long-term monitoring goals of CBP partners and the increased need for tracking changes that could result from management actions (restoration) and other changes occurring in the watershed. The new objectives, as adopted by the partnership through the CBP's Management Board (MRAT 2009), are as follows:

1. Measure and assess the status and trends of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment concentrations and loads in major tributaries and subwatersheds and selected tributary strategy basins
2. Provide data suitable for the assessment of factors affecting nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment status and trends from major pollutant source sectors
3. Measure and assess the effects of targeted management and land-use change
4. Improve calibration and verification of the partners' watershed models
5. Support spatial and topical prioritization of pollutant reduction, restoration, and preservation actions

As of 2010, the watershed monitoring network has 85 sites consisting of 67 sites fully implemented (primary) and another 18 sites partially implemented (secondary) (CBP 2010a) (Figure 5-6). All primary sites have the following: (1) continuous U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) streamflow gaging; (2) 20 water chemistry samples collected annually over a range of stream flow conditions (12 base flow and 8 storm flow); (3) nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment parameter analyses; and (4) collection techniques that ensure representative samples (CBP 2008).

At secondary sites, all the requirements for primary sites are met except storm sampling (Figure 5-6). More than 30 of the primary sites are in locations where monitoring has been coordinated for decades, allowing for trend analysis at the locations. Trend analysis has recently become possible on the remaining sites as they accumulate the minimum of 5 continuous years of data.




Source: CBP 2010a

**Figure 5-6. Chesapeake Bay watershed monitoring network.**

The Chesapeake Bay watershed monitoring network is designed to measure the discharge of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads from 85 sites in watersheds larger than 1,000 square kilometers. Routine samples are collected monthly with additional storm-event samples to obtain a range of discharges and loadings. The seven jurisdictions, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and USGS all use the same set of standardized CBP protocols that are based on USGS sampling methods and EPA-approved analytical methods (CBP 2008).

### 5.2.3 Data Quality and Access

The EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office operates the quality assurance (QA) program that covers all internal and external Chesapeake Bay Program activities that involve the collection, evaluation, and/or use of environmental data on behalf of the partnership. The QA program meets the requirements of EPA Order CIO 2105.0 for EPA programs, i.e., the American National Standard ANSI/ASQC E4-1994. The QA program also satisfies the requirements of the *EPA Information Quality Guidelines*, which describe how EPA organizations meet the Data Quality Act[1] (USEPA 2002b). The CBP Office *Quality Assurance Program Management Plan* describes the QA systems and is reviewed regularly and approved by EPA Region 3 (USEPA 2010k).

The CBP partnership has maintained a research-quality monitoring program for Chesapeake Bay tidal waters since the late 1980s when standardized sampling, analytical, and data management procedures were developed and coordinated with the then Maryland Office of Environmental Programs and the Virginia State Water Control Board. River Input Monitoring Program was then initiated at the major fall lines to measure nutrient and sediment loadings from the watershed's nine largest rivers and integrated into the QA program. Coordinated water quality monitoring was later expanded upstream into the free flowing rivers and streams across the Bay watershed, with seven watershed jurisdictions using comparable protocols (Chesapeake Watershed Partners 2004; CBP 2008).

Each of the partnership's monitoring programs produces a continuous record of high-quality data. As each of the monitoring programs is designed, in part, to detect trends in water quality constituents, therefore, trend analyses require very reproducible data over time collected at the lowest possible limits of detection. Changes in methods, laboratories, instruments, sampling sites, and such, can affect the results, so changes are carefully evaluated and approved to preserve the reproducibility of the data sets over time. Data comparability among watershed jurisdictions is reviewed every 3 months through the Chesapeake Bay Coordinated Split Sample Program (USEPA 1991a). The CBP Office evaluates the accuracy of laboratory data every 3 months by reviewing results of performance evaluation samples, e.g., CBP Blind Audit Samples[2] and USGS Standard Reference Samples.[3]

[1] Section 515(a) of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001, Public Law 106-554; H.R. 5658.
[2] See http://nasl.cbl.umces.edu/.
[3] See http://bqs.usgs.gov/srs/.

All federally funded organizations performing field sampling, laboratory analysis and/or data analysis as part of the Chesapeake Bay tidal and watershed monitoring networks have EPA-approved QA plans and standard operating procedures that conform to the CBP Recommended Guidelines for Sampling and Analysis (USEPA 1996). These guidelines, updated periodically, reviewed and approved by the CBP Analytical Methods and Quality Assurance Workgroup, and then posted on-line, specify sampling and analytical methods, precision and accuracy checks and tolerances, and documentation requirements. The QA documents for individual partner organizations responsible for components of the larger tidal and watershed water quality monitoring networks are on the CBP partnership website at http://www.chesapeakebay.net/qualityassurance_wq.aspx.

**Online Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Networks data submission, data access, and quality assurance resources:**

Chesapeake Bay Program Data Hub
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/dataandtools.aspx?menuitem=14872

CBP Water Quality Database
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/data_waterquality.aspx

CBP Map of Mainstem and Tributary Stations
http://archive.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/maps/2004-149.pdf

CBP Online Water Quality Data Dictionary
http://archive.chesapeakebay.net/data/data_dict.cfm?DB_CODE=CBP_WQDB

Guide to Using CBP Water Quality Data
http://archive.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/wqusers.pdf

CBP Recommended Guidelines for Sampling and Analysis
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/committee/analyticalmethodsworkgroup_agencies,institutions,andprojects.aspx?menuitem=16701

CBP Blind Audit Sample Program
http://nasl.cbl.umces.edu/

USGS Standard Reference Samples
http://bqs.usgs.gov/srs

CBPO Quality Assurance Program
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/qualityassurance_wq.aspx

CBP Analytical Methods and Quality Assurance Workgroup
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/committee_analyticalmethodsworkgroup_info.aspx

CBP Data and Information Tracking System
http://archive.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/DAITS_9_21_10.pdf

The CBP Office conducts routine audits of field and laboratory operations to ensure that the procedures are carried out according to their approved QA plans. Several organizations conduct their own internal field audits or require the use of accredited environmental laboratories.

Partners involved in water quality monitoring are required to submit Quality Assurance Project Plans. Cooperators undergo annual field visits, laboratories cooperative with annual on-site inspections and participate in quarterly multi-laboratory split sample evaluations to assure comparability among laboratories. The split samples are surface samples from a location in the mainstem Chesapeake Bay. Since 1987, within programs of routinely collected data, QA data are submitted for chemically analyzed parameters in the form of field split samples, lab duplicates, and lab-spiked samples. Further blind audits are conducted semi-annually.

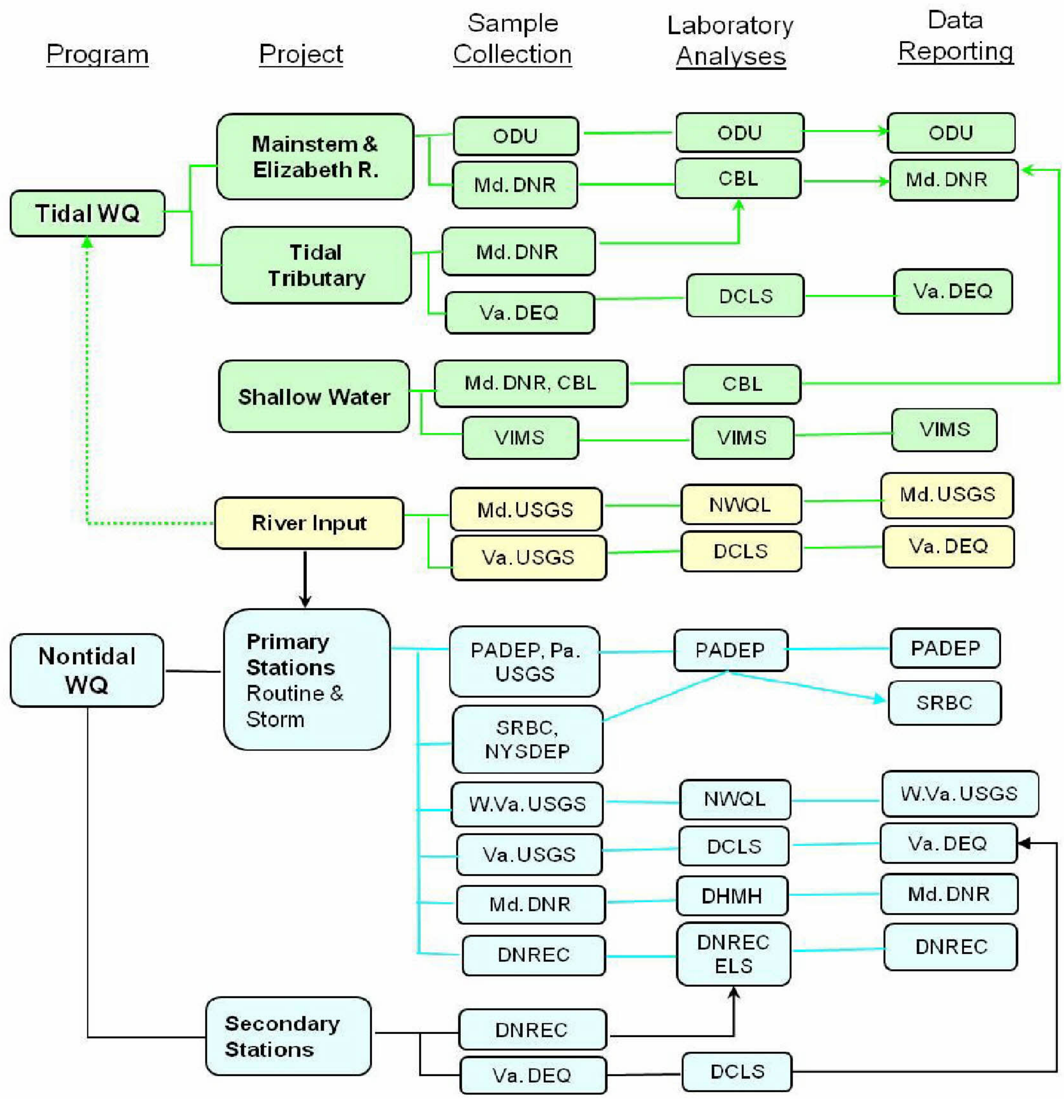
The Analytical Methods and Quality Assurance Workgroup[4] has been part of the CBP organizational structure since 1988. The workgroup, composed of field sampling team and laboratory managers provides technical peer reviews of data collection and reporting activities to ensure consistency among the sampling and analytical organizations (Figure 5-7). The Workgroup reviews blind audit and coordinated split sample results and identifies potential causes of observed differences. Special studies or corrective actions might be necessary to ensure inter-laboratory agreement. If differences are found to affect subsequent data analyses, the associated bias is quantified and documented in Data and Information Tracking System (DAITS). DAITS is a registry of technical investigations regarding the quality and use of water quality data sets.

### 5.2.4 Data Submission and Quality Assurance

Water quality data are submitted electronically to the CBP Office by the participating data providers (Figure 5-7) according to data submission requirements specified in the federal grant/cooperative agreement assistance award provisions (USEPA 2010b). Agencies collecting data as part of the Chesapeake Bay tidal water quality monitoring program submit data to the Chesapeake Information Management System (CIMS) within 60 days of the end of the month in which the sample was collected. Watershed streamflow and water quality monitoring data are submitted once per year. The Data Upload and Quality Assurance Tool (DUQAT) is an automated online tool available to data submitters who manage the processing of their data before it is included in the database. DUQUAT proceeds through more than 150 format and QA checks, provides a report on errors and outliers and, after formal acceptance by the submitter and CBP data manager, loads the data into the CIMS Water Quality Database. The final report from the QA-checks is archived and available for future reference. The *CIMS Data Upload & Quality Assurance Tool User's Guide*[5] gives directions on how to use the tool and shows the correct table formats (Lane 2004). The database for the Chesapeake Bay watershed monitoring network is being developed and data submittals from the participating partners will be required to pass through a modified version of DUQAT before acceptance into the database.

After a water quality data submission has passed through DUQAT, and within 24 hours after acceptance, the data are added to the Water Quality Database and made available to the public on the CBP Data Hub.[6] The Data Hub interface provides access to several types of data related to the Chesapeake Bay. It provides links to CBP water quality, living resources (benthic, phytoplankton, zooplankton), and wastewater treatment and discharging facilities databases, and external links to partner data sets and databases available on the Data Hub. A data download tool is available for each CBP database that allows for queries based upon user-defined inputs such as geographic region and date range. Each query results in a downloadable, tab- or comma-delimited text file that can be imported to any program (e.g., SAS, Excel, and Access) for further analysis. About 12,000 sampling events comprising 8,000,000 data records are housed in the Water Quality Database from 1984 to present that are available to the public (scientists, data analysts, and private citizens).

[4] See http://www.chesapeakebay.net/committee_analyticalmethodsworkgroup_info.aspx.
[5] See http://archive.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/DUQATUsersGuide.pdf.
[6] See http://www.chesapeakebay.net/dataandtools.aspx?menuitem=14872.




Source: Chesapeake Bay Program Office

**Figure 5-7. Chesapeake Bay tidal and watershed water quality monitoring networks' participants arrayed by their role in sample collection, laboratory analysis, and/or data reporting.**

Laboratory Abbreviations:
CBL – University of Maryland Chesapeake Biological Laboratory
DCLS – Virginia Department of Consolidated Laboratory Services
DHMH – Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
DNREC – Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality
DNREC ESL – Delaware Natural Resources Environmental Laboratory Services
Md. DNR – Maryland Department of Natural Resources
NWQL – National Water Quality Laboratory
NYSDEP – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
ODU – Old Dominion University Water Quality Laboratory
PADEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
SRBC – Susquehanna River Basin Commission
USGS – United States Geological Survey (Md., Pa., Va. & W.Va. Water Science Centers)
Va. DEQ – Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
VIMS – Virginia Institute of Marine Science

All required data submissions from the monitoring programs described must meet the data requirements set forth in the *Chesapeake Bay Program Guidance and Policies for Data, Information and Document Outputs Submission* (USEPA 2010b). All living resources data deliverables are sent in a format compliant with Appendix E of the 2000 Users Guide to Living Resources Data when submitted to the CBP (USEPA 2000).

Database documentation and metadata links for the various sampling programs are available for viewing and download. A map of mainstem and tributary monitoring stations[7] is available and helps users query for data in a specific geographic region of the watershed. The *Guide to Using CBP Water Quality Monitoring Data* describes the Chesapeake Bay tidal water quality monitoring program in general and provides detailed information about the existing database (CBP 2010b). The *Water Quality Database Design and Data Dictionary* is a resource that defines the development of the database and provides a detailed description of the tables and data in the database (CBP 2004b). The online version of the Water Quality Data Dictionary provides the up-to-date CIMS and CBP codes used in the Water Quality Database.

### 5.2.5 Monitoring Applications in Chesapeake Bay TMDL Development

Data collected through the Chesapeake Bay tidal and watershed monitoring networks over the last three decades, described above, have been applied in numerous ways, supporting the development of the Bay TMDL:

- Used to develop the original Chesapeake Bay segmentation scheme and its subsequent refinements (USEPA 1983b, 2004b, 2005)
- Used in derivation of the DO, water clarity, SAV restoration acreage, and chlorophyll *a* criteria published by EPA on behalf of the partnership (USEPA 2003a)
- Used in the delineation of the spatial boundaries of the five Chesapeake Bay tidal water designated uses (USEPA 2003d, 2004e, 2010a)
- Used in the original development and ongoing refinement of the Chesapeake Bay water quality criteria assessment procedures (USEPA 2003a, 2004a, 2007a, 2007b, 2008a, 2010a)
- Used by four Bay jurisdictions to assess achievement of their respective Chesapeake Bay WQS regulations and development of their section 303(d) lists (USEPA 2007a)
- Used in the development, calibration, verification and management application of the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model and Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Model (Cerco and Noel 2004; Cerco et al. 2010; USEPA 2010j)

## 5.3 MODELING FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

Since the early 1980s, the CBP partnership has developed and applied multiple generations of linked environmental models to help evaluate the response of Chesapeake Bay water quality to a multitude of pollutant control management scenarios and programmatic approaches (Figure 5-8).

[7] See http://archive.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/maps/2004-149.pdf.

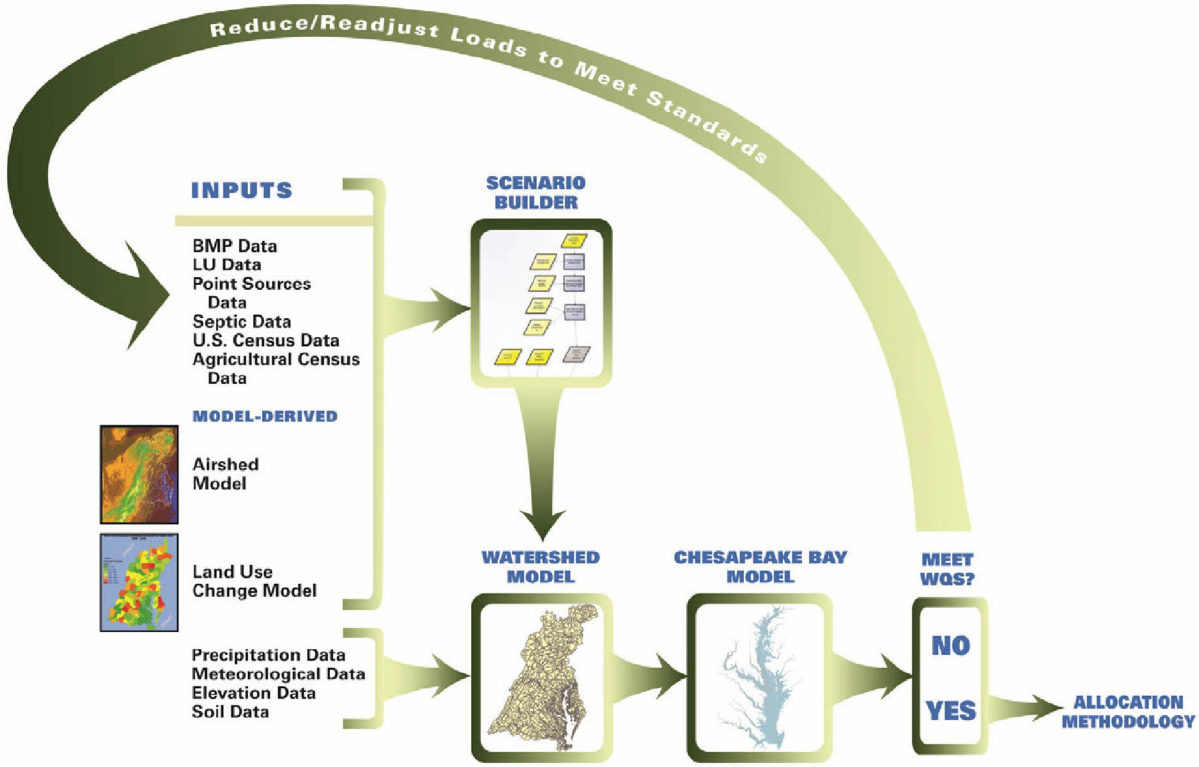



**Figure 5-8. Chesapeake Bay TMDL modeling framework.**

The fourth and fifth generations of some of these environmental models have been applied to support development of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.

The Chesapeake Bay models are state-of-the-science and played a pivotal role in the development of the Bay TMDL. However, these models are just one of the tools in the TMDL analysis that also includes monitoring and environmental research. The models produce estimates, not perfect forecasts. Hence, they reduce, but do not eliminate, uncertainty in environmental decision making. Used properly, the suite of Bay models provide best estimates for developing nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment reductions that are most protective of the environment. Ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay TMDL was based on the overall corroboration of the suite of Chesapeake Bay models, the Bay tidal and watershed monitoring networks, and environmental research.

The two major components of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL modeling framework are the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model (Bay Watershed Model) and the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality and Sediment Transport Model (Bay Water Quality Model). Several other models and tools were used to provide critical inputs or to facilitate parameterizing (i.e., selecting the model components and their attributes that best describe the relevant characteristics of the watershed) the Bay Watershed Model to run various management scenarios (Table 5-1).

The models used to develop the Chesapeake Bay TMDL simulate the same 10-year hydrologic period from 1991 to 2000. The models are linked together so that the output of one simulation provides input data for another model (Figure 5-8). For example, the nitrogen outputs from the

Chesapeake Bay Airshed Model affect the nitrogen input from atmospheric deposition to the Bay Watershed Model. The Bay Watershed Model, in turn, transports the total nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads, including the contributions from atmospheric deposition, to the Bay Water Quality Model. The Bay Water Quality Model, in turn, simulates the effects of the nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads generated by the Bay Watershed Model and the effects of direct atmospheric deposition to tidal surface waters on Bay water quality (e.g., DO, water clarity, chlorophyll *a*), exchange of nitrogen, phosphorus, and oxygen with bottom sediment, and living resources (e.g., underwater Bay grasses, algae, microscopic animals, bottom sediment dwelling worms and clams, oysters, and menhaden).

**Table 5-1. Modeling tools supporting development of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL**

| Model | Function |
|---|---|
| Chesapeake Bay Airshed Model | Provides estimates of wet and dry atmospheric deposition to the Bay watershed and Bay water quality models |
| Chesapeake Bay Land Change Model, Version 4 | Provides annual time series of land uses to the Bay Watershed Model as well as projects land uses out to 2030 |
| Chesapeake Bay Spatially Referenced Regressions on Watershed Attributes (SPARROW) Model | Provides a general calibration check on the Bay Watershed Model's land use and riverine loads |
| Chesapeake Bay Scenario Builder | Facilitates the creation of input decks for Bay Watershed Model management scenarios |
| Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Community Watershed Model | Simulates loading and transport of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment from pollutant sources throughout the Bay watershed<br><br>Provides estimates of watershed nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads resulting from various management scenarios |
| Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model | Simulates estuarine hydrodynamics, water quality, sediment transport, and key living resources such as algae, microscopic animals, bottom sediment dwelling worms and clams, underwater grasses, and oyster and menhaden filter feeding<br><br>Predicts Bay water quality resulting from various management scenarios<br><br>Ensures allocated loads under the Bay TMDL will meet jurisdictions' Bay water quality standards |
| Chesapeake Bay Criteria Assessment Program | Assesses attainment of the jurisdictions' Bay water quality standards using a unique combination of Bay Water Quality Model management scenario outputs and Bay water quality monitoring data |
| Chesapeake Bay Climate Change Simulation | Uses aspects of downscaled data from a suite of Global Climate Models, the Bay Watershed Model, and the Bay Water Quality Model to simulate climate change effects in the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed |

The following sections provide additional details about each of the Bay models and other decision support tools used in development of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and the linkages between the various models and tools. For each model/tool, the sections provide a general description of the model and how it was used in developing the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. Links to more detailed, online documentation are provided. Appendix B contains a more extensive list of Bay model related documentation, reports, independent scientific peer reviews, and model scenario inputs and outputs all with links for on-line access.

## 5.4 CHESAPEAKE BAY AIRSHED MODEL

The Chesapeake Bay Airshed Model (Bay Airshed Model) provides estimates of nitrogen deposition resulting from changes in emissions from utility, mobile, and industrial sources because of management actions or growth.

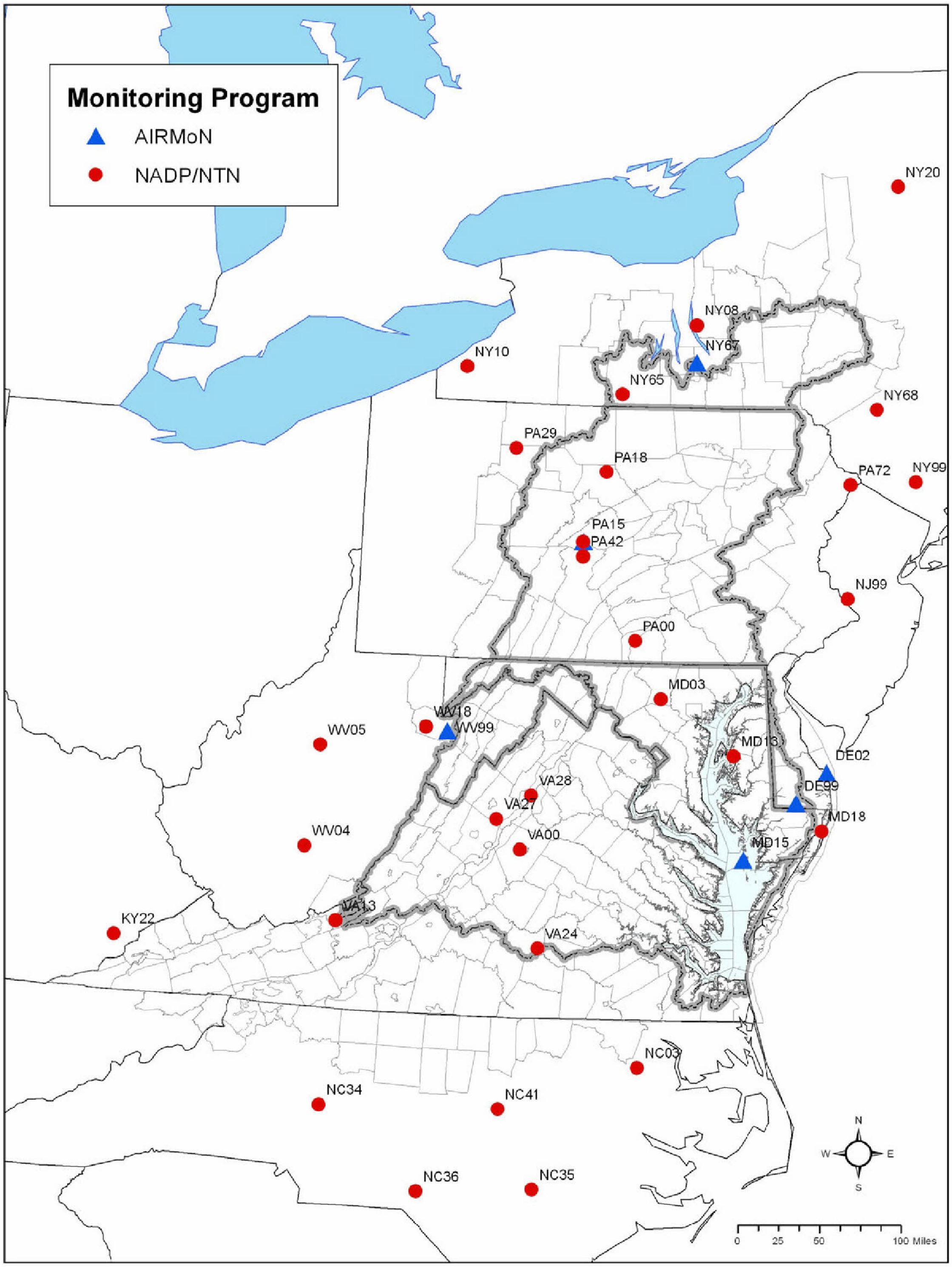
The Bay Airshed Model was used to provide inputs of nitrogen from wet and dry deposition to the Bay Watershed Model and to the Bay Water Quality Model. The Bay Airshed Model is linked to the Bay Watershed Model through atmospheric deposition to land surfaces and free flowing streams and rivers and to the Bay Water Quality Model through direct atmospheric deposition to the tidal surface waters of Chesapeake Bay (USEPA 2010j).

The Bay Airshed Model combines a wet deposition regression model (Figure 5-9) (Grimm and Lynch 2000; 2005), and a continental-scale air quality model of North America called the Community Multiscale Air Quality Model (CMAQ) for estimates of dry deposition (Figure 5-10) (Dennis et al. 2007; Hameedi et al. 2007). Wet deposition occurs during precipitation events and contributes to the loads only during days of rain or snow. Dry deposition occurs continuously and is input at a constant rate every day.

The CMAQ scenarios include the management actions required by the Clean Air Act (CAA) in 2010, 2020, and 2030. The future year scenarios reflect emissions reductions from national control programs for both stationary and mobile sources, including the Clean Air Transport Rule (Replacement for the Clean Air Interstate Rule), the Tier-2 Vehicle Rule, the Nonroad Engine Rule, the Heavy-Duty Diesel Engine Rule, and the Locomotive/Marine Engine Rule (see Section 6.4.1 and Appendix L for more details).

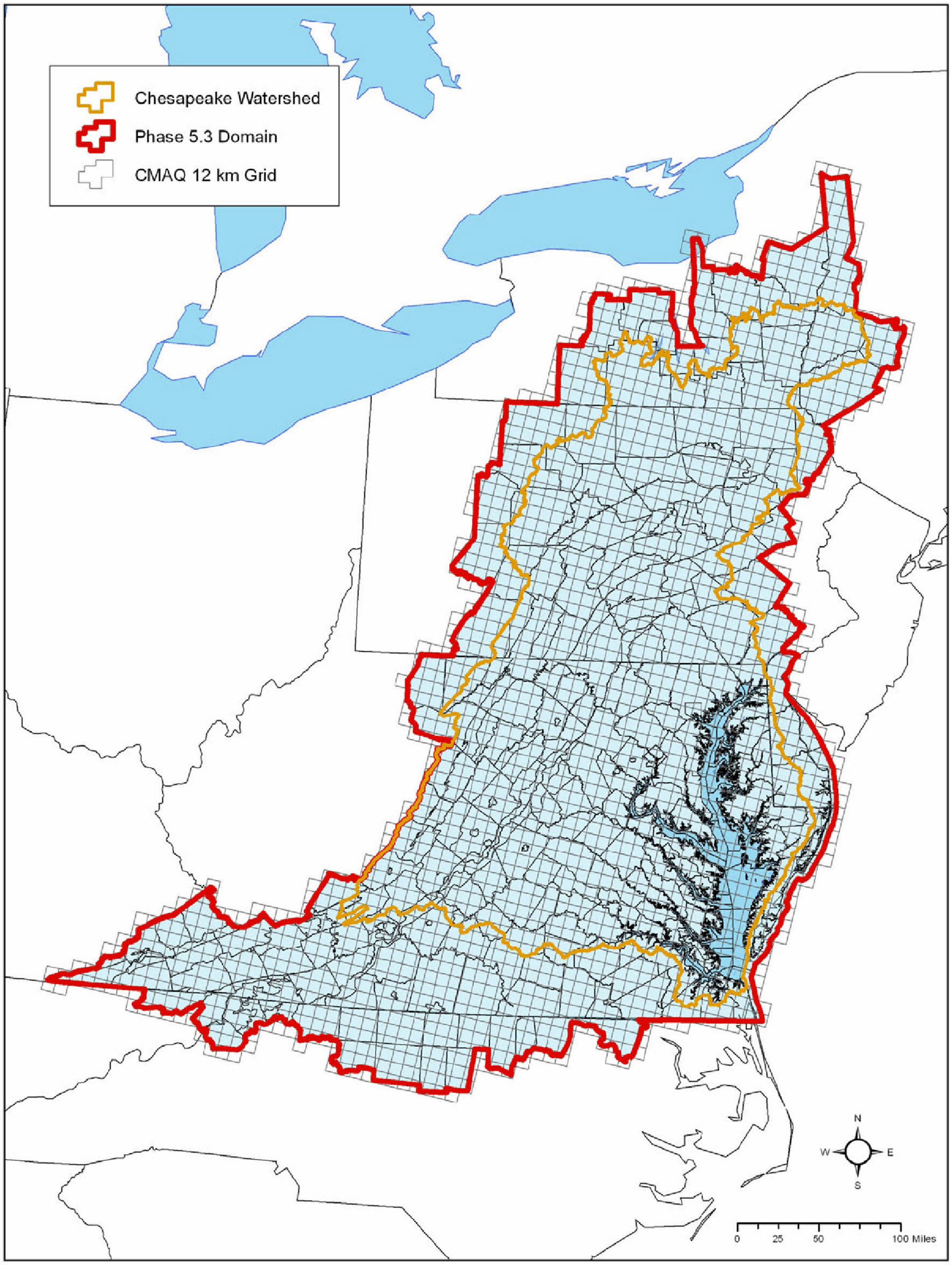
The CMAQ provides monthly constants for dry deposition. It requires a variety of input files that contain information pertaining to the entire North American continent. Those include hourly emissions estimates and meteorological data in every grid cell and a set of pollutant concentrations to initialize the model and to specify concentrations along the modeling domain boundaries. The initial and boundary concentrations were obtained from output of a global chemistry model.

The CMAQ simulation period is for one year, 2002, characterized as an average deposition year. The 2002 CMAQ simulation year was used to provide the monthly dry deposition estimate for each year of Bay model simulation from 1985 to 2010.




Source: Grimm and Lynch 2005

**Figure 5-9. Atmospheric deposition monitoring stations used in the Chesapeake Bay airshed nitrogen wet deposition regression model.**




Source: USEPA 2010j

**Figure 5-10. The Community Multiscale Air Quality Model's 12 km grid over the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model county segmentation.**

The wet deposition regression model provides hourly wet deposition loads to each land-segment on the basis of each land-segment's rainfall. The regression model uses 29 National Atmospheric Deposition Program monitoring stations and 6 AIRMoN stations to form a regression of wetfall deposition across the entire Phase 5 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model domain over the entire simulation period (see Appendix L).

To account for wet deposition of nitrogen, EPA both developed a specific TMDL load allocation (LA) for the direct nitrogen atmospheric deposition onto the tidal surface waters of Chesapeake Bay and accounted for air deposition of nitrogen to the Bay watershed in the LAs of the watershed-based sources. The Bay TMDL air load allocation reflects the modeled atmospheric nitrogen deposition to the tidal surface waters of the Bay, taking into account the reduction in air emissions expected from sources regulated under existing or planned federal CAA authorized programs (see Section 6.4.1 and Appendix L).

Detailed information related to the Bay Airshed Model and its application in development of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL is available in Section 5 of the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model Report (USEPA 2010j) at http://www.chesapeakebay.net/model_phase5.aspx?menuitem=26169.

## 5.5 CHESAPEAKE BAY LAND CHANGE MODEL

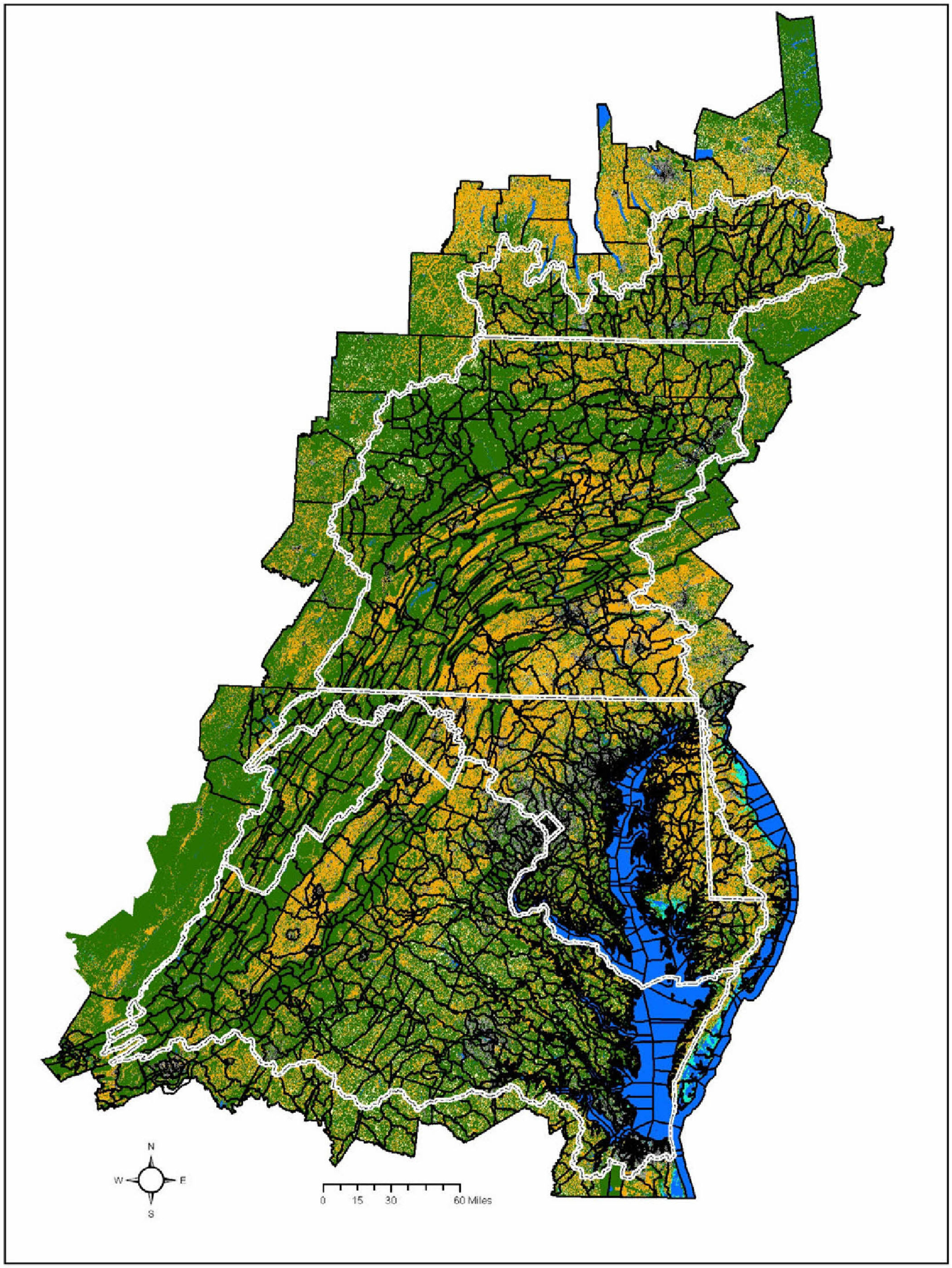
The Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model makes use of annually changing land use profiles derived from the Chesapeake Bay Land Change Model.

### 5.5.1 Motivations for Developing Future Land Use Estimates

A major challenge facing water resource managers today is how to maintain progress restoring the Chesapeake Bay in the face of continued population and urban development. The Chesapeake Bay Land Change Model (Bay Land Change Model) was developed to help address this management challenge. In conjunction with the Bay Watershed Model, the Bay Land Change Model can be used to assess potential future changes in nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads to the Bay.

### 5.5.2 Scale of Chesapeake Bay Land Change Model Future Land Use Estimates

To meet the data requirements of Bay Watershed Model, the Bay Land Change Model forecasts change at the Bay Watershed Model segment scale. Version 4 of the Bay Land Change Model includes more than 2,000 modeling segments (e.g., polygons) in the Bay watershed and intersecting counties (Figure 5-11). The segments were created on the basis of an intersection of county boundaries, major topographic divides, and a 1:250,000 scale river reach drainage area network. Because the modeling segments are within counties, all data generated at the modeling segment scale can also be provided at the county scale for local review and comment.




Source: Irani and Claggett 2010

**Figure 5-11. 2006 Land cover conditions in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and intersecting counties.**

### 5.5.3 Components of Chesapeake Bay Land Change Model Future Land Use Estimates

In support of the CBP management concerns, researchers from USGS, EPA, Shippensburg University, and a private consultant developed the Chesapeake Bay Land Change Model, which combines the strengths of a growth allocation model or GAMe (Reilly 2003), with those of a cellular automata model, SLEUTH (slope, land use, excluded land, urban extent, transportation, and hillshade) (Clarke et al. 1997; Jantz et al. 2003). GAMe projects future urban developed area at the Bay Watershed Model segment scale by fitting total housing unit trends over the 1990s to a Gompertz (exponential S-shaped) Curve that is then used to extrapolate housing trends to the year 2030. County population projections converted to county scale estimates of total housing demand are used to constrain the modeling segment scale forecasts generated using the Gompertz Curve. After the model segment scale forecasts of housing demand are adjusted to match the county scale housing demand totals, they are converted to an estimate of future urban developed area using segment-specific ratios of urban developed land cover area to total housing units.

The proportions of structural development growth occurring on farmland, forest land, sewer, septic, and within existing developed boundaries are determined uniquely for each Bay Watershed Model segment using the SLEUTH growth model, a stochastic cellular automata model customized for application in the Chesapeake Bay watershed by Goetz and Jantz (2006). SLEUTH extrapolates historic rates and patterns of urban developed growth into the future using satellite derived imagery of 1990 and 2000 impervious cover. SLEUTH was calibrated separately in 15 different county clusters in the Bay watershed. Counties were clustered according to shared characteristics of urban developed growth, commuting patterns, and state and ecoregion boundaries. SLEUTH uses a Monte Carlo method to generate multiple simulations of future growth, which are combined to create a probability map of future urban development. The output from SLEUTH is a 30-m resolution probability raster data set that indicates the probability of urban developed growth in the year 2030 with values ranging from 0 to 100 percent.

The patterns of probable growth can vary for each cluster of counties by the coefficients used to calibrate SLEUTH in each cluster. The patterns and levels of probable urban development can also vary within a county by local factors of attraction and repulsion. The factors are represented in a 30-m resolution raster data set referred to as an exclusion layer. Local areas off limits to development can include public lands, conservation easements, rurally zoned lands, steep slopes (greater than 21 percent grade), emergent wetlands, and open water. For the Bay watershed, an exclusion layer was created in a GIS using information on public and protected lands, generalized zoning, and land cover. Values greater than 50 are relatively repulsive to growth with 100 being completely excluded. Values less than 50 are relatively attractive to growth (e.g., areas zoned for moderate or high density growth). The midpoint, 50, is neutral.

The probability output from SLEUTH is overlaid onto a raster land cover data set to determine the relative proportions of land cover classes and sewer areas affected by future growth. For example, if a cell with a 50 percent probability of becoming developed by 2030 overlays a forest cell in the land cover map, 50 percent of that cell is considered forest loss. For each modeling segment, the total acreage of all land cover classes converted to urban developed are summed and divided by the total of urban developed acreage forecasted in the modeling segment. That process generates relative proportions of future growth by land cover class for each modeling segment. Multiplying those proportions by the acreage of forecasted growth (generated by GAMe) determines how much acreage to subtract or add in future years to the Phase 5.3 Bay Watershed Model 2002 baseline land use classes.

The Bay Land Change Model also includes a Sewer Model to estimate the population on sewer and septic in the years 2000 and 2030. Where local data were not available, a population density raster data set derived from year 2000 Census Block Group data and detailed road vector files were used to represent probable sewered areas in the year 2000. The approach captures 81 percent of Maryland's mapped residential sewered areas on the basis of a one-to-one cell comparison. That approach also compares favorably with survey data in Virginia representing households with sewer service in the 2001 to 2005 period.

Modeled sewered areas in the year 2000 were expanded along existing roads by 300 m to 2,000 m to represent possible expansion of the sewer network through the year 2030. Forecasted population values for each watershed modeling segment were derived by converting the housing demand forecasts into estimates of future population. Future populations on sewer and septic were estimated by overlaying the SLEUTH probability map onto the modeled sewer service areas for 2030 to derive proportions of growth on sewer and septic, which were then multiplied by the forecasted population in each modeling segment. The proportions of growth on sewer and septic were kept constant for all interim year forecasts between 2000 and 2030. The percent change in population within each sewer service area was used to estimate the percent change in flow for all wastewater treatment plants in or close to each service area.

More detailed information on the Chesapeake Bay Land Change Model and its application in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL is available in Section 4 of the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model Report (USEPA 2010j) at
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/model_phase5.aspx?menuitem=26169.

## 5.6 CHESAPEAKE BAY SPARROW MODEL

The USGS developed a set of spatially referenced regression models to provide additional spatial detail on nutrient sources and transport processes in the Bay watershed. The SPARROW (SPAtially Referenced Regression On Watershed Attributes) model integrates monitoring data with landscape information and uses statistical methods to relate water-quality monitoring data to upstream sources and watershed characteristics that affect the fate and transport of constituents to streams, estuaries, and other receiving waterbodies (Preston et al. 2009). SPARROW is watershed based and designed for use in predicting long-term average values such as concentrations and delivered loads to downstream receiving

**For additional information on Chesapeake Bay SPARROW modeling, see the following resources:**

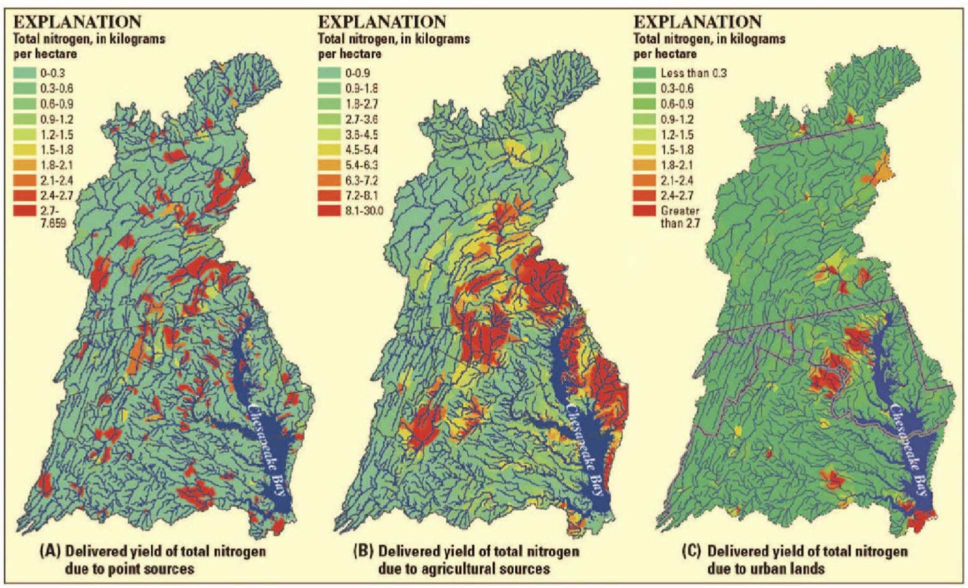
SPARROW fact sheet
http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2009/3019/

National SPARROW home page
http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/sparrow/

Chesapeake Bay Specific
http://md.water.usgs.gov/publications/wrir-99-4054/html/index.htm
http://md.water.usgs.gov/publications/ofr-2004-1433/
http://chesapeake.usgs.gov/coast/restorationmapper.html

waters. Statistical methods are used to explain in-stream measurements of water quality in relation to upstream sources and watershed properties (e.g., soil characteristics, precipitation, and land cover).

Among its outputs, the SPARROW model can be used to quantify incremental yield or edge-of-field loading, which is the amount (load per area) of total nitrogen, phosphorus, or sediment generated in each reach basin independent of upstream load (Figure 5-12). The Chesapeake Bay SPARROW models provide loading information for three separate periods, the late 1980s, the early 1990s, and the late 1990s (Brakebill et al. 2010; Brakebill and Preston 2004, 2007; Preston and Brakebill 1999). For the Chesapeake Bay watershed modeling and TMDL development effort, EPA used the results of the SPARROW model as a data source for estimating average edge-of-field targets when developing and calibrating the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model (USEPA 2010j).




Source: Brakebill and Preston 2007

**Figure 5-12. An example of the Chesapeake Bay SPARROW Model output showing delivered yields of total nitrogen in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.**

## 5.7 CHESAPEAKE BAY SCENARIO BUILDER

Scenario Builder is a standalone data pre-processor for the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. It is designed to track the land use-related nutrient processes for the multiple land use-related sources in the Bay watershed and to facilitate parameterization of those sources for watershed model scenarios to be run through the Bay Watershed Model (Figure 5-13). Scenario Builder generates information that is used to simulate loads related to animal production areas, manure storage, application of manure and fertilizers, septic inputs, plant growth/uptake, and best management practice (BMP) implementation. Scenario Builder can handle data at a variety of levels, including land-river segment, river segment, land segment, county, state and basin, tributary strategy basin, or state and can vary by the BMP in question. Scenario Builder is designed so that users may select an area of one or more counties, the livestock types, and the number of animals, along with a land use using the 25 Watershed Model-HSPF categories and then be able to alter the crop mix that is nested in each of the agricultural land uses along with BMPs.

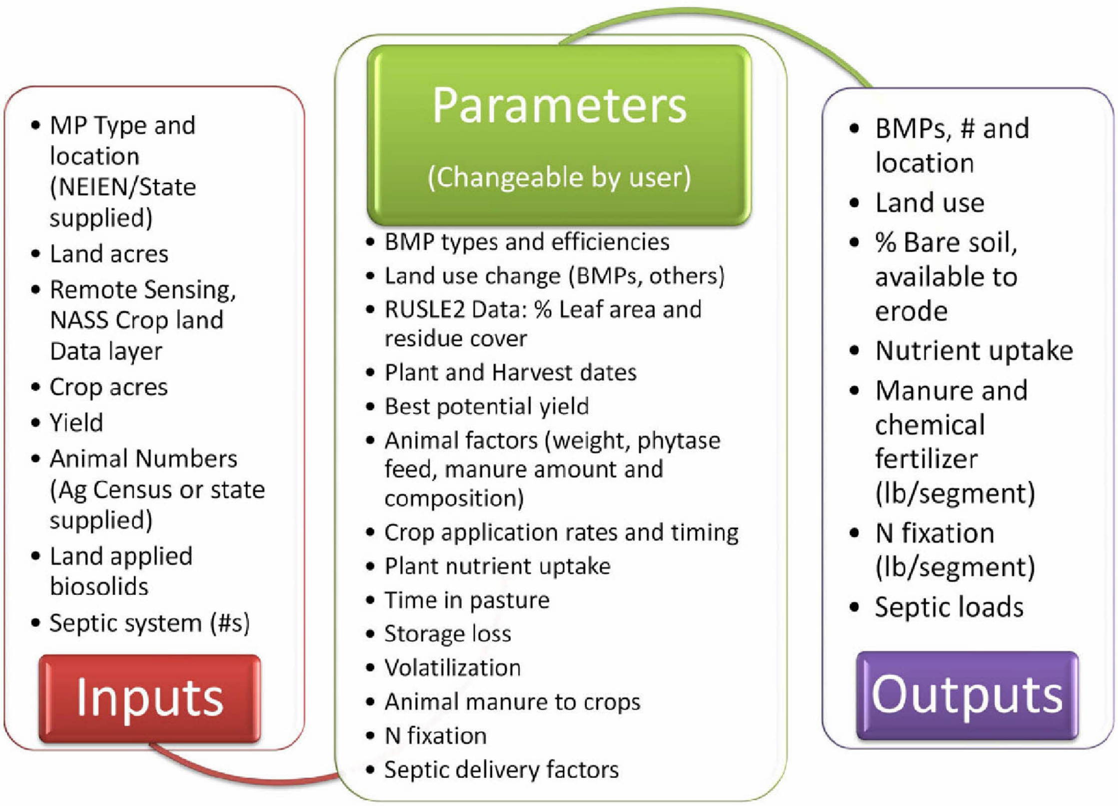



**Figure 5-13. Scenario Builder conceptual process.**

Scenario Builder estimates the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus load that will be generated by a given land use in the presence of agricultural and other land-based activities and estimates the area of soil available to be eroded. Loads are input to the Bay Watershed Model to generate modeled estimates of loads delivered to the Bay. Additional information related to Scenario Builder and its application in Bay TMDL development (USEPA 2010d) is at http://archive.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/SB_V22_Final_12_31_2010.pdf.

For the Bay TMDL, Scenario Builder was used to provide the land use-based scenario inputs to the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. The seven watershed jurisdictions will continue using it when implementing their Watershed Implementation Plans to build model scenarios of their actual and future implementation practices that will, in turn, be run through the Bay Watershed Model to track implementation status and project future implementation rates.

## 5.8 PHASE 5.3 CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED MODEL

The Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model is an application of the Hydrologic Simulation Program-Fortran (HSPF) (Bicknell et al. 2005). The segmentation scheme divides the Chesapeake Bay watershed into approximately 1,000 segments/subbasins, with the average size about 64 square miles. About 280 monitoring stations throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed were used for calibration of hydrology, while approximately 200 monitoring stations were used to calibrate water quality, depending on the constituent being calibrated. There are 530 river-segments with simulated reaches that drain to a simulated downstream reach. There are 62 river-segments with simulated reaches that drain directly to the Chesapeake Bay and 379 river-segments adjacent to tidal waters that are without a simulated reach (Figure 5-14).

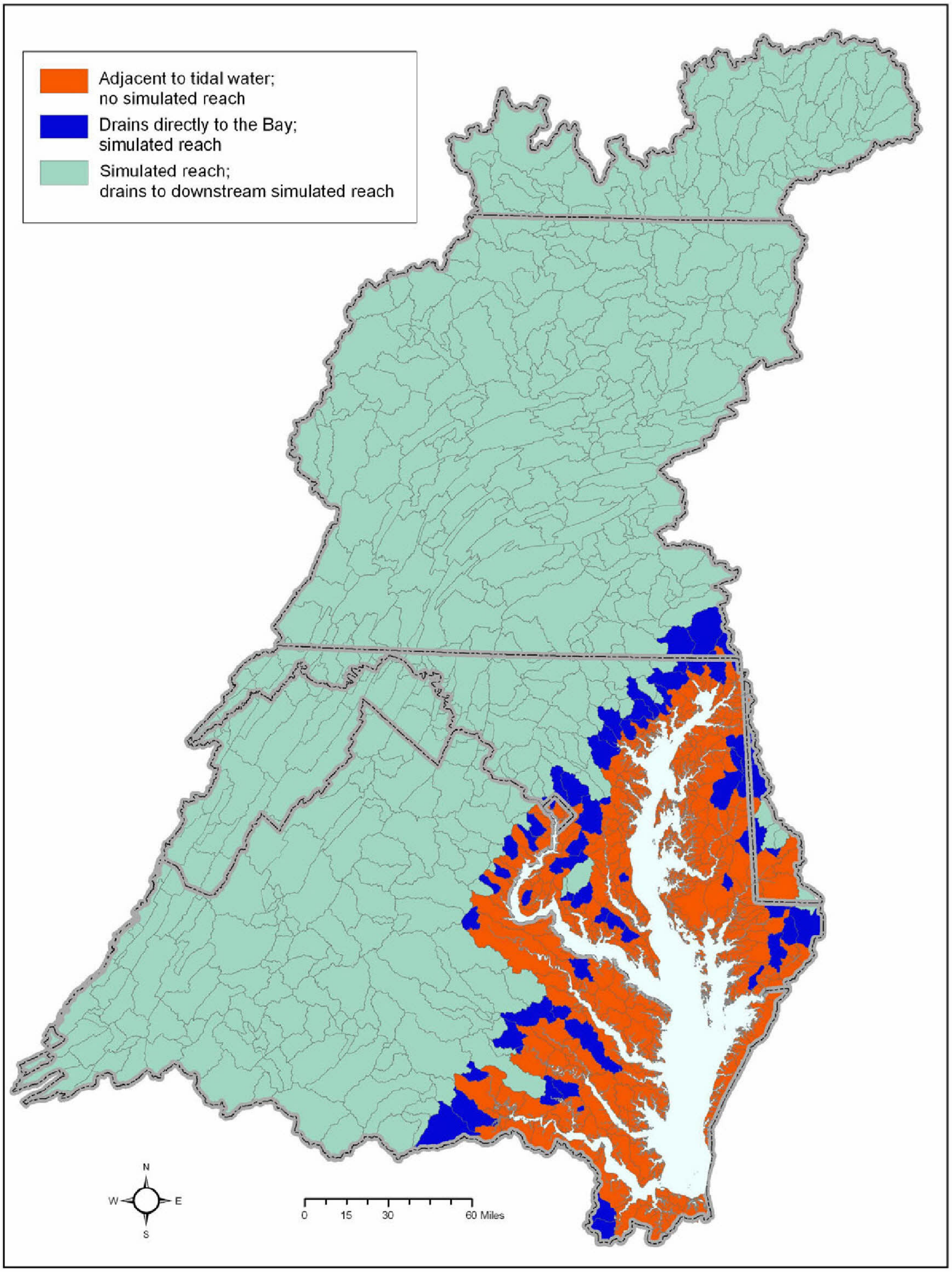
The Bay Watershed Model simulation period covers 21 years from 1984 to 2005 to take advantage of more recent and expanded monitoring data and information. The expansion of the model period to a 21-year period resulted in a more representative and improved land use inventory for use in model calibration. While the Phase 4.3 Bay Watershed Model and all previous Bay watershed model versions had a constant land use, the Phase 5.3 Bay Watershed Model allows a time series of land use input data to change annually over the 1984 to 2005 simulation period (USEPA 2010j).

As a community model, the Phase 5.3 Bay Watershed Model has open source model code, pre-processors, post-processors, and input data that are freely available to the public (USEPA 2010j). Input data include precipitation information, municipal and industrial wastewater treatment and discharging facilities, atmospheric deposition, and land use (USEPA 2010j). By offering the Bay Watershed Model as a community model, end users—typically TMDL model developers and watershed researchers and implementation plan developers—can use the model independently as is or as a starting point for more detailed, small-scale models (USEPA 2010j). The Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model can be downloaded from this ftp site: ftp://ftp.chesapeakebay.net/Modeling/phase5/community/ or the Chesapeake Community Modeling Program's website at http://ches.communitymodeling.org/models/CBPhase5/datalibrary.php.

The Bay Watershed Model simulates the 21-year period (1984–2005) on a one-hour time step (USEPA 2010j). Nutrient inputs from manure, fertilizers, and atmospheric deposition are based on an annual time series using a mass balance of U.S. Census of Agriculture animal populations and crops, records of fertilizer sales, and other data sources. BMPs are incorporated on an annual time step and nutrient and sediment reduction efficiencies are varied by the size of storms. Municipal and industrial wastewater treatment and discharging facilities and onsite wastewater treatment systems' nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment contributions are also included in the Bay Watershed Model. The following sections provide additional details regarding the underlying data used to develop and calibrate the Bay Watershed Model.

### 5.8.1 Bay Watershed Model Segmentation

In many HSPF applications, the river segmentation and the land segmentation is the same. Each river segment will have a set of land uses that drain to it and it only. In the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, the segmentation schemes are separate (USEPA 2010j). Land segments are generally county-based because a simulation of a representative acre of each land use type




Source: USEPA 2010j

**Figure 5-14. Segmentation and reach simulation of the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model.**

exists in each county. Some counties in mountainous regions where the rainfall patterns varied significantly have been broken out into several land segments. The segments that result from the intersection of the two segmentation schemes are known as land-river segments (Martucci et al. 2006).

### 5.8.2 Bay Watershed Model Setup

Detailed information related to how the Bay Watershed Model was set up to support development of the Bay TMDL is available in the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model Report (USEPA 2010j). In addition, information related to model representation of land use-related nutrient generating sources is available in the Scenario Builder documentation (USEPA 2010d). The following paragraphs provide a general description of critical data components underlying the Bay Watershed Model.

#### Meteorological Data

Meteorological data are critical inputs to the Bay Watershed Model because precipitation is a primary driver of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loadings to the Bay. Approximately 500 daily data and 200 hourly data precipitation monitoring stations were used in development and calibration of the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model (USEPA 2010j). Precipitation is derived from an hourly output regression model of these stations developed by USGS. Meteorological parameters included in the simulation are hourly temperature, solar radiation, wind speed, daily dew point, cloud cover, and potential evapotranspiration. Those parameters were collected from the seven primary meteorological stations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (USEPA 2010j).

#### Withdrawals

Water withdrawals are represented in the Bay Watershed Model as daily amounts from jurisdictions' reported data of monthly or annual withdrawals. Water withdrawals include irrigation use and thermoelectric use, among others. The Bay Watershed Model also takes into account the seasonal cycle of irrigation use. Consumptive uses are modeled as 100 percent removal of the water from the appropriate stream segment, and any resulting wastewater is treated as a separately modeled point source discharge (USEPA 2010j).

#### Soils and Sediment

Soil characteristics were obtained from the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Interpretation Records and the National Resources Institute. Sediment delivery from each land use is based on National Resources Institute's estimates of annual edge-of-field sediment loads, as determined by the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (USEPA 2010j).

#### Land uses

The Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model simulates 24 land uses, including 11 types of cropland, 2 types of woodland, 3 types of pasture, 5 types of developed land, and provisions for other special land uses such as surface mines and AFOs (Table 5-2) (USEPA 2010j). Nitrogen and phosphorus in the major pervious land uses of woodland, cropland, hay, pasture, and developed pervious are simulated using the AGCHEM modules in HSPF that fully simulate forest or crop nutrient cycling, including uptake by plants. The minor pervious land uses, which are harvested forest, land under construction, nurseries, surface mines, and degraded riparian pasture, are simulated through PQUAL, which represents nutrient export through concentration coefficients. Impervious land uses are simulated through the IQUAL modules, which use accumulation and wash-off coefficients to simulate nutrient and sediment export.

The final Phase 5.3 land use is available as a sub-county tabular database for the years 1985, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2005 at ftp://ftp.chesapeakebay.net/Modeling/phase5/Phase%205.3%20Calibration/Model%20Input/land_use.zip. The Phase 5.3 model input decks including the land use files above are also linked with a brief explanation from the Phase 5 Model page at http://www.chesapeakebay.net/model_phase5.aspx. The Bay Watershed Model uses a continuous time series of land use interpolated from those years.

The principal databases used to develop the Phase 5.3 Bay Watershed Model, 30-meter land use coverage were the following:

- USGS Chesapeake Bay Land Cover 1984, 1992, 2001 and 2006 Data Series (CBLCD)
- County level U.S. Census of Agriculture 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007 data
- 2001 Impervious Surface Land Cover data developed by the University of Maryland's Regional Earth Science Applications Center (RESAC) (Goetz et al. 2004)
- Ancillary data from the jurisdictions were used to develop the extractive land use cover, including spatial and tabular permitting information
- Construction land use is a percentage of impervious change

Table 5-2 provides a summary of the land use types modeled by the Phase 5.3 Bay Watershed Model, the specific land uses, and a basic description of their derivation. Additional detail is available in Section 4 of the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model report (USEPA 2010j) at http://www.chesapeakebay.net/model_phase5.aspx?menuitem=26169.

**Table 5-2. Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model land uses**

| Land use type | Land use | Description | Source |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agricultural | Pasture | Based on pastureland areas from the agricultural census | USDA Agricultural Census |
| | Degraded riparian pasture | Unfenced riparian areas where livestock have stream access; represents a portion of the pasture use | A unique area designated by each state as the acres of planned riparian pasture fencing in their Tributary Strategies |
| | Nutrient management pasture | Pasture that is part of a farm plan where crop nutrient management is practiced. Nutrient management pasture is pasture that receives manures that are excess on a farm after all crop nutrient needs are satisfied. | Derived from the pasture land use and state nutrient management BMP tracking data |

| Land use type | Land use | Description | Source |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Alfalfa hay | Alfalfa is a separate hay category because it is a nitrogen-fixing, leguminous crop and receives different nutrient applications than other hay crops | USDA Agricultural Census |
| | Hay-unfertilized | (Wild hay) + (cropland idle) + (cropland in cultivated summer fallow) | USDA Agricultural Census |
| | Hay-fertilized | (Hay-alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild grass, silage, green chop, act) – (wild hay) – (alfalfa) + (cropland on which all crops failed) | USDA Agricultural Census |
| | Conventional tillage with manure | Wheat, barley, buckwheat, sunflower, corn, sorghum, soybeans and dry beans | USDA Agricultural Census |
| | | | |
| | Conventional tillage without manure | (Cotton) + (tobacco) + (land used for vegetables) + (potatoes, excluding sweet potatoes) + (sweet potatoes) + (berries) + (nursery acres in the open) + (land in orchards) | USDA Agricultural Census |
| | Conservation tillage without manure | Crops typically grown for direct human consumption (such as cotton, tobacco, vegetables, potatoes and berries) and field nurseries | USDA Agricultural Census |
| | Nursery | Container nurseries, which typically have a high density of plants (10–100 plants per square meter) and high rates of nutrient applications | USDA Agricultural Census |
| | Animal Feeding Operations | Percentage of pastureland, based on animal populations from the agricultural census | Derived from the USDA Agricultural Census count of farms and the type and numbers of animals |
| Woodland | Forest, woodlots, and wooded | Includes woodlands, woodlots, wetlands and usually any wooded area of 30 meters by 30 meters remotely sensed by spectral analysis. Predominant land use in watershed. | Largely derived from the land area the was not developed, not in the USDA Agricultural Census, and not water of lakes and rivers |
| | Harvested forest | Estimated at 1% of forest, woodlots, and wooded land use | Derived from the forest, woodlots, and wooded land use |
| Developed | High-density pervious | High-Intensity Pervious Developed (Hp) lands are immediately adjacent to High-Intensity Impervious Developed lands and include mostly small landscaped areas and lands adjacent to developed structures and major roadways. No portions of these lands are impervious | Derived from satellite data and density of road network |

| Land use type | Land use | Description | Source |
|---|---|---|---|
| | High-density impervious | High-Intensity Impervious Developed (Hi) lands contain more than 50% impervious surfaces per quarter-acre (on average) and generally represent impervious surfaces associated with large structures and major roads and include mostly commercial, industrial, and high-density residential land uses, interstates, and other major roads. | Derived from satellite data and density of road network |
| | Low-density pervious | Low Intensity Pervious Developed (Lp) lands are generally associated with Low-Intensity Impervious Developed lands and include residential lawns, golf courses, cemeteries, ball fields, developed parks, and other developed open spaces. Any impervious surfaces associated with these land uses are captured in either the low-intensity or high-intensity impervious developed classes depending on the size of the structure or road. | Derived from satellite data and density of road network |
| | Low-density impervious | Low-Intensity Impervious Developed (Li) lands contain less than 50% impervious surfaces per quarter-acre (on average) and generally represent impervious surfaces associated with small structures and minor roads and include mostly low to medium density residential areas and some sidewalks and driveways. | Derived from satellite data and density of road network |
| | MS4 | Developed land coincident with an area requiring Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits. | Derived from state regulatory data |
| Minor Land uses | Bare-construction | Based on the difference between the RESAC impervious land estimates of 1990 and 2000. Impervious land, which increased over the 10-year period, was assumed to have transitioned from a bare-construction land use | Derived from a combination of impervious area and construction permits |
| | Extractive-Active and Abandoned Mines | Mines, gravel pits and areas affected by mine-related activities. In Virginia, acres are based on permit information; all others are based on RESAC data | State permitting data |
| | Open Water | Nontidal waters, acreage constant throughout model period | Satellite-derived estimate |

Source: USEPA 2010j

### *Agricultural Land Uses*

Satellite-derived estimates of cropland and pasture have higher uncertainty in the prediction of the extent of these land cover classes compared to the USDA Agricultural Census data in certain land-river segments, so census data were used to inform and modify the extent of these land uses. County-level total agricultural land use information from the USDA Agricultural Census data were interpolated to the base years of 1990 and 2000. Agricultural land use was distributed to the model segments by the ratio of census agricultural classes for each county, and other land uses were distributed in the remaining model segment area in proportion to their acreage in the county. Annual changes in land use were linearly extrapolated or interpolated from the 1990 and 2000 base years and years covered in the USDA Agricultural Census (1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007), resulting in annual sub-county data sets of land use.

The total agricultural area was split into different agricultural land uses, by the average ratio of crops in the USDA agricultural census. Crops were aggregated by similar surface cover characteristics and fertilizer application rates to yield categories with similar nutrient-loading properties.

State agricultural engineers provided fertilizer and manure application timing and rates, crop rotation information, and field operation timing information. Manure application is represented in a time-varying mass balance of manure nutrients, according to animal population and predominant manure handling practices (USEPA 2010j).

Animal waste areas are defined by manure acres, which allows for the simulation of high nutrient content runoff, and are based on the population of different animal types. The manure acres in a given area change based on the number of animals of each type (beef and dairy cattle, swine, laying hens, broilers and turkeys) and the implementation of animal waste management systems. Nutrient export is simulated as a concentration applied to the runoff from the manure acres (USEPA 2010j).

### *Urban Land Uses*

For urban land representation, high- and low-density development and the proportion of impervious and pervious area were mapped for 1990 and 2000 (USEPA 2010j).

### *Other Land Uses*

Other land uses represented in the model include construction, which typically has high sediment loading capacity; extractive-active and abandoned mines; and open non-tidal water.

### *Future Land Use Estimations*

The Chesapeake Bay Land Change Model was developed to help assess potential future changes in nutrient and sediment loads to the Bay resulting from land use changes (see Section 5.5 and Section 10.1).

### 5.8.3 Pollutant Source Representation

The Bay Watershed Model represents various sources of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment on the basis of the characteristics of the source and information available for characterizing the source. Point sources such as permitted wastewater and industrial dischargers that generally discharge continuously are represented directly in the Bay Watershed Model using locational data, flow, and discharge characteristics. Other sources, such as septic systems or agricultural activities, are represented in the model through the underlying land use coverage and assumptions related to nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment production from associated land uses. Those sources can be thought of as land use-related sources because the simulation of their loading characteristics is driven by the land use categories with which they are associated. Several such land use-related sources are subject to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. An example of such a land use-related source is an municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) area, which is subject to an NPDES permit and must receive a WLA in the TMDL, but loadings are derived as a function of the modeled land use loading rates for associated land uses (e.g., urban pervious land). The following paragraphs summarize the Bay Watershed Model's representation of the major sources of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment to the Bay. Additional minor land use sources are also detailed in the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model Report (USEPA 2010j).

#### Municipal and Industrial Discharges

Municipal and industrial discharges are considered direct inputs to the river reaches. In the Bay Watershed Model, the river segments are simulated as a completely mixed reactor, and all the wastewater discharged loads within a reach are summed for each of the river segments and input as a daily load (USEPA 2010j).

#### Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

CAFOs are represented in the model as part of the AFO land use, which represents the production area of livestock operations. The loading is calculated on the basis of animal counts; manure nutrients production rate modified by feed considerations; time spent in pasture out of the production area; volatilization factors; and loss coefficients, which are dependent on storage facility type. The full description of the CAFO and AFO land use loads is available in the Scenario Builder documentation (USEPA 2010d) at http://archive.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/SB_V22_Final_12_31_2010.pdf.

#### Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)

CSO loads are not directly simulated by the Bay Watershed Model. CSO loads for the TMDL were developed using estimations of daily CSO flows and nutrient concentrations for the CSO communities in the watershed. For details related to how the CSO loads were calculated, see Section 7 of the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model Report (USEPA 2010j) at http://www.chesapeakebay.net/model_phase5.aspx?menuitem=26169.

#### MS4s

The estimated MS4 areas were provided by each of the jurisdictions and represent the current understanding of MS4 areas. While the best and final definition of an MS4 is delineated sewersheds (drainage area served by a sewer system), most jurisdictions could provide only municipal boundaries as an estimated MS4 area. There might be additional developed land, however, outside the municipal boundaries that also drains to the MS4 area that can be shown by GIS data. The Phase 5.3 Bay Watershed Model uses the GIS data and topographic information to delineate the sewershed, which includes all land in the municipal boundaries and developed land outside the municipal boundaries that drains to the MS4 (USEPA 2010j).

#### Septic Loads

Septic system loads are calculated on the basis of U.S. Census Bureau estimates of the number of systems in the watershed and standard assumptions regarding nitrogen waste generation and attenuation. The model simulates nitrate discharges directly to stream and river reaches (USEPA 2010j).

### 5.8.4 Calibration

The Phase 5.3 Bay Watershed Model segments are defined such that segment outlets are in proximity to in-stream flow gauging and water quality monitoring stations to increase the accuracy of model calibration. Calibration involved comparing available streamflow and water quality data for the years 1985 to 2005 to watershed model calibration output for the same period.

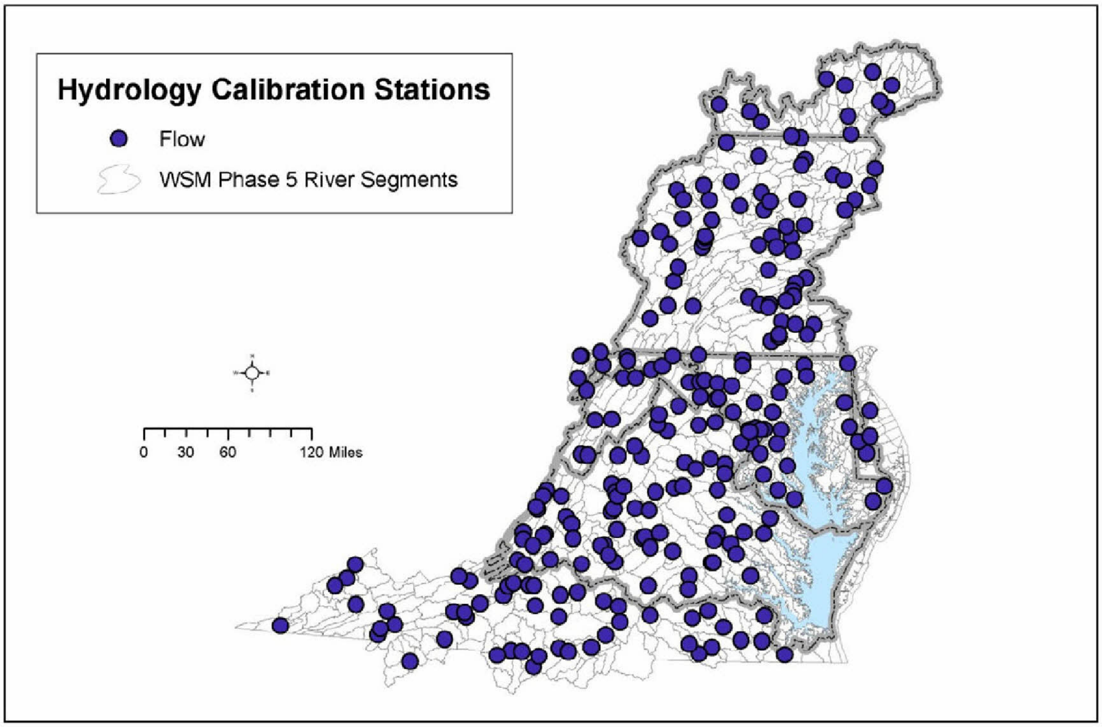
To calibrate the model output, various water quality parameters such as simulated streamflows, TSS (sediment), total phosphorus, organic phosphorus, particulate phosphorus, phosphate, total nitrogen, nitrate, total ammonia, and organic nitrogen concentrations and loads, temperature, and DO were compared to the observed data from the in-stream monitoring sites (Figure 5-15). Through the application of an automated calibration process, model parameters were adjusted to optimize the representation of observed in-stream conditions (USEPA 2010j).

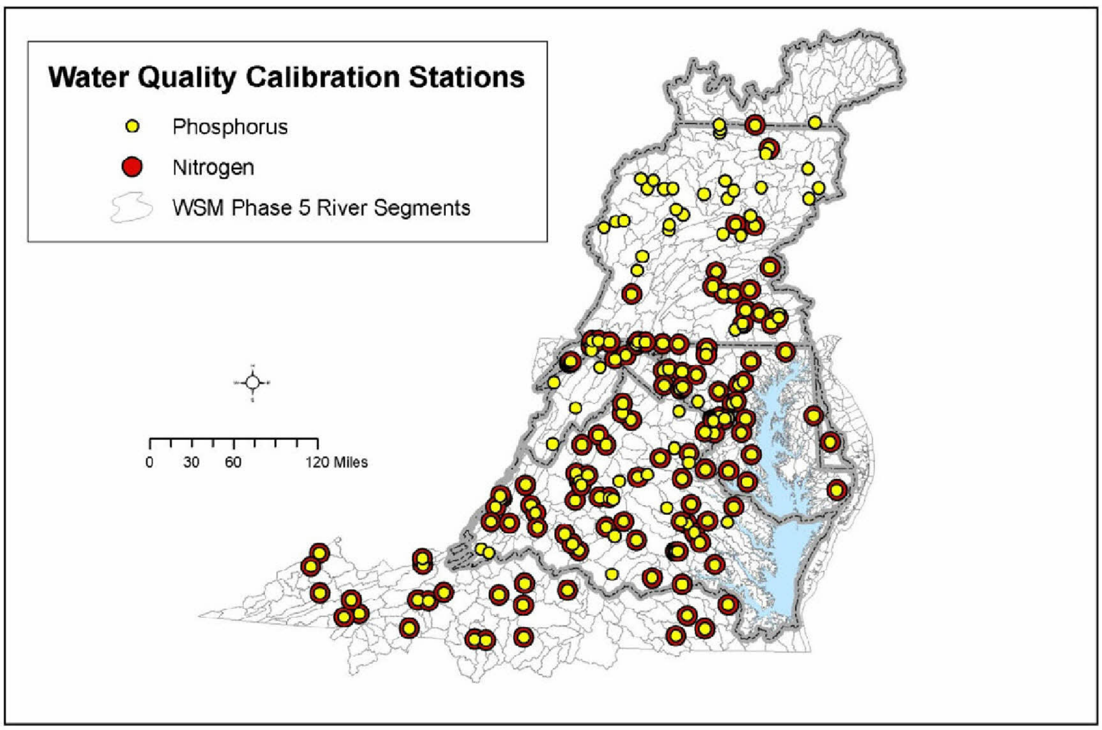
The calibrated Bay Watershed Model was run for a 21-year hydrologic period (1985–2005) to simulate loads for various evaluation scenarios. Those loads were linked to the Bay Water Quality Model to test whether a given scenario met the Bay jurisdictions' WQS in the Bay. Modeled loads are reported as the average annual load over the modeled period.

## 5.9 CHESAPEAKE BAY WATER QUALITY AND SEDIMENT TRANSPORT MODEL

The Bay Watershed Model was linked to the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality and Sediment Transport Model (Bay Water Quality Model), which in turn was used to evaluate the impacts on Bay water quality conditions in response to changes in nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loading levels.

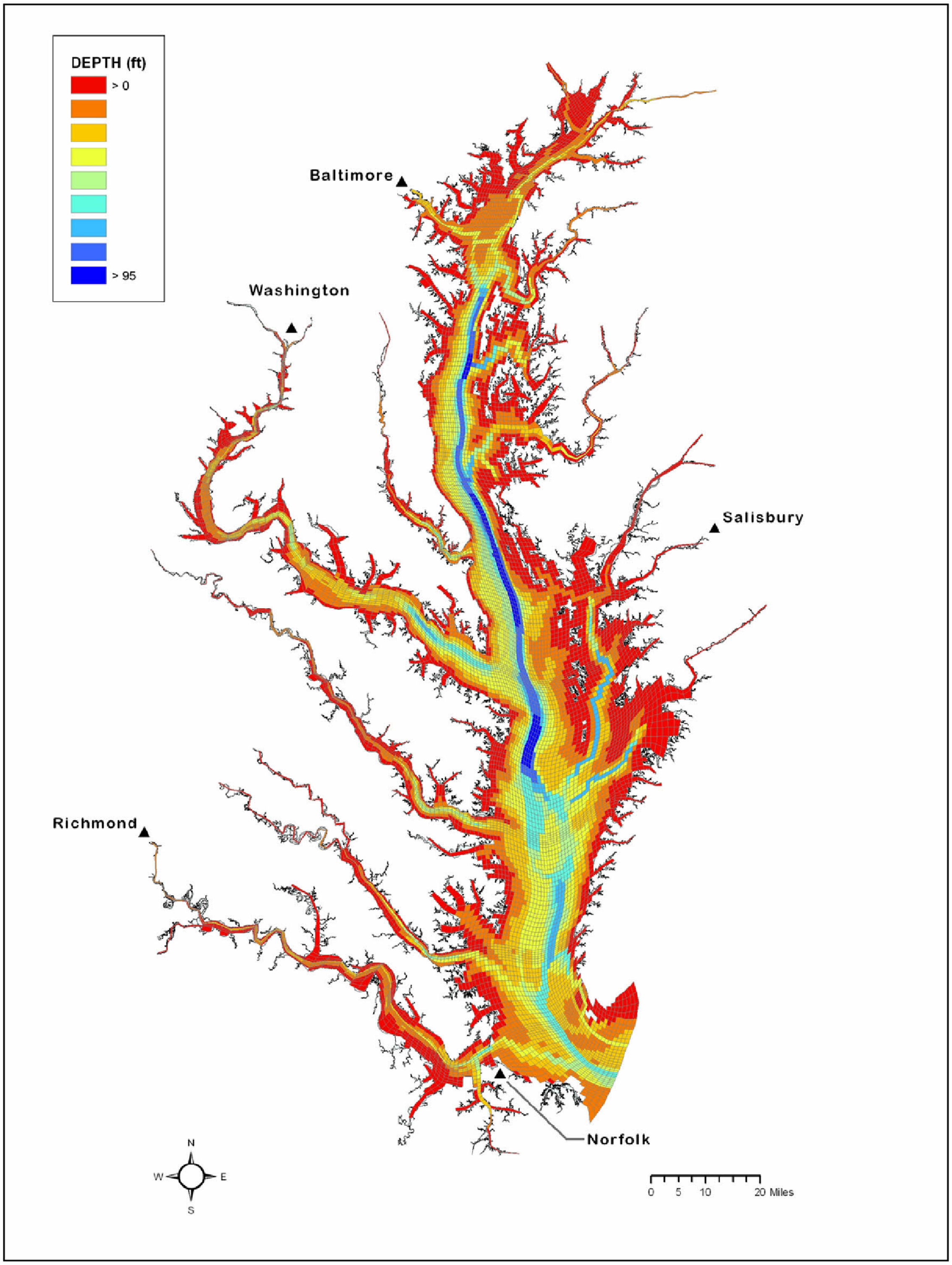
The Bay Water Quality Model combines a three-dimensional hydrologic transport model (CH3D) with a eutrophication model (CE-QUAL-ICM) to predict water quality conditions in the Bay resulting from changes in loads from the contributing area (Figure 5-16). The hydrodynamic model computes intra-tidal transport using a three-dimensional grid framework of 57,000 cells (Cerco et al. 2010). The sediment transport model computes continuous three-dimensional velocities, surface elevation, vertical viscosity and diffusivity, temperature, salinity, and density using time increments of 5 minutes.




Source: USEPA 2010j

**Figure 5-15. Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model hydrology (upper panel) and water quality (lower panel) monitoring calibration stations overlaid on the Phase 5.3 Bay Watershed Model's river segments.**




Source: Cerco et al. 2010

**Figure 5-16. The detailed 57,000 cell grid of the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality and Sediment Transport Model.**

The hydrodynamic model was calibrated for the period 1991–2000 and verified against the large amount of observed tidal elevations, currents, and densities available for the Bay.

Computed flows, surface elevations, and vertical diffusivities from the hydrodynamic model were output at 2-hour intervals for use in the water quality model. Boundary conditions were specified at all river inflows, lateral flows, and at the mouth of the Bay.

The eutrophication (water quality) model computes algal biomass, nutrient cycling, and DO, as well as numerous additional constituents and processes using a 15-minute time step (Cerco and Cole 1993; Cerco 2000; Cerco et al. 2002; Cerco and Noel 2004). In addition, the eutrophication model incorporates a predictive sediment diagenesis[8] component, which simulates the chemical and biological processes undergone at the sediment-water interface after sediment are deposited (Di Toro 2001; Cerco and Cole 1994).

Loads to the system include distributed or nonpoint source loads, point source loads, atmospheric loads, bank loads, and wetlands loads. Nonpoint source loads enter the tidal system at tributary fall lines and as runoff below the fall lines. Point source loads are from industries and municipal wastewater treatment plants. Atmospheric loads are deposited directly to the Bay tidal surface waters. Atmospheric loads to the watershed are incorporated in the distributed loads. Bank loads originate with shoreline erosion. Wetland loads are materials created in and exported from wetlands and include exported wetland oxygen demand.

Detailed documentation on the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality and Sediment Transport Model (Cerco and Noel 2004; Cerco et al. 2010) is at http://www.chesapeakebay.net/content/publications/cbp_26167.pdf.

### 5.9.1 Nonpoint Source Loads

Nonpoint source loads to the Bay Water Quality Model are from the Phase 5.3 Bay Watershed Model. Loads are provided daily, routed to surface cells on the model grid. Routing is based on local watershed characteristics and on drainage area contributing to the cell adjacent to the land (USEPA 2010j).

### 5.9.2 Point Source Loads

Wastewater discharged loads to the Bay Water Quality Model were based on reports provided by state and local agencies which, depending on the source, were specified annually or monthly. In the model, loads from individual sources were summed into loads to model surface cells and were provided monthly (USEPA 2010j).

### 5.9.3 Atmospheric Loads

The EPA CBP Office computed the daily atmospheric loads to each Water Quality Model surface cell (USEPA 2010j). Wet deposition loads of ammonium and nitrate were derived from National Atmospheric Deposition Program observations. Dry deposition load was derived from

[8] Predictive sediment diagenesis is a predictive model of how organic material and nutrients in sediment on the Bay floor are processed.

the CMAQ. Deposition loads of organic and inorganic phosphorus were specified on a uniform, constant, areal basis derived from published values.

### 5.9.4 Bank Loads

Bank loads are the solids, carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus loads contributed to the water column through shoreline erosion. Although erosion is episodic, bank loads can be estimated only as long-term averages by areal surveys. The volume of eroded material is commonly quantified from comparison of topographic maps or aerial photos separated by time scales of years. Consequently, the erosion estimates are averaged over periods of years, but bank loads are input into the Bay Water Quality Model as episodic events as determined by a wave energy submodel. Bank loads were estimated for shoreline and sub-tidal erosion for much of the Chesapeake Bay shoreline on a scale of about every 10 kilometers of shoreline.

### 5.9.5 Wetlands

Wetlands loads are the sources (or sinks) of oxygen and oxygen-demanding material, such as carbon, that is associated with wetlands that fringe the shore of the Bay and tributaries. These loads are invoked primarily as an aid in calibrating tidal tributary dissolved oxygen concentrations. Loads to each cell were computed by multiplying the amount of adjacent wetlands area by the amount of areal carbon export or oxygen consumption. A uniform carbon export of 0.3 grams carbon per meters$^2$ per day was employed, leading to a uniform oxygen demand of 2 gram oxygen per meters$^2$ per day. Segments receiving the largest carbon loads and subject to the greatest oxygen consumption include the mid-portion of the Bay, Tangier Sound, several Eastern Shore tidal tributaries, the tidal middle and lower James River, the tidal fresh York River, and the tidal York River mouth.

### 5.9.6 Model Setup

Within the Bay Water Quality Model, 90 of the 92 Chesapeake Bay segments are fully represented within the 57,000 model cells and fully simulated. Two Bay segments—the Western Branch Patuxent River and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal—were either not included in the modeled Chesapeake Bay segments or not fully simulated in the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality and Sediment Transport Model. Bay TMDLs were developed for both of these Bay segments using information from the Phase 5.3 Bay Watershed Model, Bay Water Quality Model results from adjoining tidal Bay segments, and other documented sources (see Section 9).

The Western Branch Patuxent River (WBRTF) segment in Maryland (see Table 2-1 and Figure 2-5) was not simulated in the Bay Water Quality Model because of the lack of quality data on the tidal river's bathymetry (Cerco et al. 2010). In June 2000, the Maryland Department of Environment published a BOD TMDL for this tidal river segment to address DO impairments (MDE 2000). Therefore, WBRTF is listed on Category 4a for a BOD TMDL on Maryland's 2008 Integrated Report (see Table 2-1) (MDE 2008). A TMDL for segment WBRTF has been developed on the basis of: (1) Maryland Department of Environment's original BOD TMDL and loading information from the surrounding Phase 5.3 watershed model segments that drain directly into the Western Branch Patuxent River segment; and (2) outputs from the down-tide

Patuxent River segments (PAXTF, PAXOH, PAXMH), which are also listed as impaired (see Table 2-1 and Section 9) (MDE 2008).

The Delaware portion of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal (C&DOH_DE) is simulated in the Bay Water Quality Model as a boundary condition[9] for the Delaware Bay using constant flow and load (Cerco et al. 2010). The segment is listed as impaired (see Table 2-1) (DE DNREC 2008). A Chesapeake Bay TMDL for segment C&DOH_DE was developed using a combination of loading information from the surrounding Phase 5.3 Bay Watershed Model segments that drain directly into this Bay segment and outputs from the down-tide Chesapeake Bay segments (C&DOH_MD, ELKOH, and CB1TF), which also are listed as impaired (see Table 2-1 and Section 9) (MDE 2008).

## 5.10 CHESAPEAKE BAY CRITERIA ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Output from the Bay Water Quality Model is used to modify historical water quality monitoring observations from the period 1991–2000 for the purposes of determining Chesapeake Bay WQS attainment under various pollutant load reduction scenarios (for more details on this process, see Section 6.2.2). To perform the necessary procedures on the large amount of data required from both the Bay Water Quality Model and the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program database, a set of FORTRAN modules was developed. These post-processing modules read output from the Bay Water Quality Model (hourly values for DO; daily values for chlorophyll *a*), perform regression analyses, and apply those regressions to the appropriate historical monitoring data set. Additional FORTRAN modules then perform the same standardized, automated criteria assessment procedures that are used to assess more recent monitoring data for the Bay jurisdictions' section 303(d) listing reports.

The source code for this suite of FORTRAN modules is maintained by the EPA CBP Office's Modeling and Monitoring teams on behalf of the partnership and is accessible at ftp://ftp.chesapeakebay.net/Monitoring/CriteriaAssessment/.

The process by which historical monitoring data are scenario-modified using output from the Bay Water Quality Model is summarized in Section 6.2.2. For a detailed description of the Chesapeake Bay water quality criteria assessment procedures used for generating 303(d) listings, see EPA's *Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity and Chlorophyll a for the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tidal Tributaries–2008 Technical Support for Criteria Assessment Protocols Addendum* (USEPA 2008a) and EPA's *Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity and Chlorophyll a for the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tidal Tributaries: 2010 Technical Support for Criteria Assessment Protocols Addendum* (USEPA 2010a).

## 5.11 CLIMATE CHANGE SIMULATION

The potential effects of future climate change were accounted for in the current Bay TMDL allocations based on a preliminary assessment of climate change impacts on the Chesapeake Bay.

[9] Boundary conditions refer to the definition or statement of conditions or phenomena at the boundaries of a model; water levels, flows, and concentrations that are specified at the boundaries of the area being modeled.

Because of well known limitations in the current suite of Bay models to fully simulate the effects of climate change as listed below, EPA and its partners are committed to a more comprehensive assessment in 2017. Effects of climate change already observed in the mid-Atlantic region have been factored in the Bay TMDL through the application of recent records of precipitation, streamflow, and Chesapeake Bay water column temperatures which reflect changes in the regional climate over the past several decades.

A preliminary assessment of climate change impacts on the Chesapeake Bay was conducted, in parallel, using an earlier version of the Phase 5 Bay Watershed Model and tools developed for EPA's BASINS 4 system including the Climate Assessment Tool (see Appendix E for details). Flows and associated nutrient and sediment loads were assessed in all river basins of the Chesapeake Bay with three key climate change scenarios reflecting the range of potential changes in temperature and precipitation in the year 2030. The three key scenarios came from a larger set of 42 climate change scenarios that were evaluated from seven Global Climate Models, two scenarios from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Emissions Scenarios storylines, and three assumptions about precipitation intensity in the largest events. The 42 climate change scenarios were run on the Phase 5 Watershed Model of the Monocacy River watershed, a subbasin of the Potomac River basin in the Piedmont region, using a 2030 estimated land use based on a sophisticated land use model containing socioeconomic estimates of development throughout the watershed.

The results provide an indication of likely precipitation and flow patterns under future potential climate conditions (Linker et al. 2007, 2008) (see Appendix E). Projected temperature increases tend to increase evapotranspiration in the Bay watershed, effectively offsetting increases in precipitation. The preliminary analysis indicated overall decreases in annual stream flow, nitrogen and phosphorus loads. The higher intensity precipitation events yielded estimated increases in annual sediment loads. These preliminary findings support the nitrogen and phosphorus allocations within the Bay TMDL and application of an implicit margin of safety for these two pollutants, recognizing these loads might not increase, even decrease. These same preliminary findings support EPA's decision for an explicit sediment allocation margin of safety, recognizing the potential for increased sediment loads.

EPA and its partners are committed to conducting a more complete analysis of climate change effects on TMDL nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads, which is to be made during the mid-course assessment of Chesapeake Bay TMDL progress in 2017 as called for in Section 203 of the Chesapeake Executive Order 13508 (May 12, 2009) (please see Section 10.5 for more details).

To carry out a more complete analysis of climate change effects, changes will be needed to the current suite of Bay models and tools including:

- Applying the results from the next generation of global climate change models to develop the best available estimates of the effects of climate change on the mid-Atlantic region
- Developing a better means for down-scaling the results from the applicable global climate change models to match the finer segmentation of the Phase 5.3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model

- Developing the means to better understand and fully simulate the interactions between increased evapotranspiration and high intensity precipitation events within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model
- Building the capacity to simulate the effects of change in tidal water column temperatures on all the existing temperature dependent rates and processes currently simulated with the hydrodynamic, estuarine water quality, sediment transport, living resources and filter feeder component models of the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality and Sediment Transport Model
- Reevaluate the temperature dependent effects on key species and communities (e.g., eelgrass) to ensure the latest scientific understanding has been factored into the suite of Bay models